

IRAN NEWS



Benazir Bhutto Arrives at No. 10 Downing St. Sept. 30 to Visit John Major. MQM Supporters in London Demonstrated Against Her

Members of Bosnian Presidency Izetbegovich (C) Krajisnik (L) and Zubak Met in Sarajevo Sept. 30. They Represent Bosnian Muslims, Serbs and Croats



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President Inaugurates 22nd Tehran Int'l Trade Fair

IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

TEHRAN - President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani yesterday said the massive participation of foreign countries in the 22nd Tehran International Trade Fair neutralizes the poisonous imperialistic propaganda.

The President was addressing the inaugural ceremony of the 22nd Tehran International Trade Fair attended by the visiting Sierra Leonean President Ahmad Tejan Kaddah, foreign dignitaries, and representatives of different domestic and foreign companies.

Referring to the U.S. reluctance to see so many foreign countries displaying their goods at the fair, he said, "Such large scale participation of more than 1,500 foreign companies at the fair demonstrates their neglect for intense imperialistic propaganda."

"Alongside fostering and fa-

cilitating trade, this fair intends to enhance technical know-how to promote the domestic industries," he added.

Such fairs, he noted, link various governments and nations and promote cooperation at the international level.

"Exchange of information is

another goal," he noted adding, "We hope that the developing countries would reap benefit of experiences Iran has obtained over the past seven years."

In the domestic front, this fair is a due manifestation of the advancements and progress of a

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LEBED WARNS TALIBAN THREAT TO C. ASIA

Masood Dynamites Entrance to Panjshir

PANJSHIR VALLEY, AFGHANISTAN (AFP) - Afghan troops forced out of Kabul dynamited the entrance to the key Panjshir Valley yesterday to halt the rapidly advancing Taliban fundamentalist militia.

"We are going to put up a very strong defense, and God willing deny the Taliban entry to the Panjshir," said Bismillah Khan, a

commander loyal to Ahmad Shah Masood, one of the key defenders of the previous Kabul regime.

The Panjshir Valley, some 100 kilometers (60 miles) north of Kabul, is now the frontline of troops loyal to Burhamuddin Rabbani, whose Kabul government was routed by the Taliban last Friday.

But in the Salang Pass, west of

the Panjshir, there was no fighting reported between the Taliban and the army of ex-Communist General Abdul Rashid Dostam. The Taliban deputy foreign minister held a press conference yesterday to deny that his group had given a 24-hour deadline to Dostam to give in.

Bismillah Khan and his men

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EU to Take U.S. to WTO Over Cuba Legislation

LUXEMBOURG (AFP) - European Union foreign ministers agreed yesterday to take the United States to the World Trade Organization (WTO) over controversial legislation that seeks to punish companies that trade with Cuba.

The request for a WTO panel will be lodged at the organization's Geneva headquarters on October 16.

The move appeared to signal a hardening of the EU's stance in a dispute that has badly soured trans-Atlantic relations and raised fears that a trade war could be on the cards.

Only last month the consensus among the EU ministers was that they should wait until after the U.S. presidential election in November before deciding on any retaliatory action.

EU Trade Commissioner Sir Leon Brittan welcomed the decision to go to the WTO.

"The European Union has all

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Analysts Skeptical About D.C. Summit Because of Netanyahu

IRAN NEWS POLITICAL DESK
TEHRAN - While the Washington summit is in progress, political analysts in the region are skeptical saying "it's a waste of time as

tions. Palestinian Leader Yasser Arafat and Israel's Benjamin Netanyahu went to a White House summit aimed at ending an upsurge of violence in the Mideast and keep flagging peace hopes alive.

Summing up the situation on the eve of what for President Clinton is a politically risky summit,

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WASHINGTON, D.C., UNITED STATES: U.S. President Bill Clinton (L) and Vice President Al Gore (2nd L) stand with Jordan's King Hussein (R) late Sept. 30 at the White House in Washington D.C. (AFP Photo)

U.S. Pursues Its Interests by Creating Political Unrest

BY MEHRDAD SERJOOIE
TEHRAN - Through political unrest and tension, the U.S. endeavors to pursue its interests, Russian Duma's Vice-Speaker Sergei Baburin told IRAN NEWS Monday.

Given the recent developments in Afghanistan, Russia's security is at stake, especially on the west, he pointed out.

He said: "In supporting the Taliban in the recent Afghan developments, the U.S. is trying to impose its political will over the region, a task that is impossible when peace and security prevail."

"For instance, why does the



BABURIN

U.S. like to see tension along the Iran-Iraq borders? I believe because Washington's interests can best be obtained when war is going on in the region," he stressed.

The U.S. has repeatedly shown the veracity of this claim through

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Mr. Ali Farshi

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Managing Director: MOHAMMAD SOLTANIFAR
Editor-in-Chief: MOORTEZA FIROOZI
Editorial Dept. Tel: (0092-21) 3326231-2, 373 9785
Telex: 116555 IRANS IR
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EDITORIAL

The Taliban Reveal the True Nature of U.S.

The current political development in Afghanistan creates more problems than it resolves, and as the Taliban head for the northern regions, the situation in that country is becoming more complicated.

In response to an ultimatum issued on Monday by Mullah Mohammed Omar the Taliban leader, Ahmad Shah Masood blew up the entrance to Panjshir Valley yesterday to block the advance of the Taliban militia.

On Monday radio Kabul quoted Mullah Omar as asking Masood and Abdul Rashid Dostam to surrender and hand over their weapons and government property they are still holding. The ultimatum was also addressed to ousted President Burhanuddin Rabbani and Prime Minister Gulbuddin Hikmatyar.

Anyway, the ultimate fate of the ousted leaders of Afghanistan are still unclear as they are holding the remaining 1/4 of the country.

With this background, a crucial question is being asked in the political circle in Iran as well as in the region and Europe. The question pertains to the dubious strategy of the United States vis-a-vis Afghanistan.

In the last few years we have all been witness to Washington's repeated warnings and exertion of pressure on Europe and others to keep a distance from what it called Islamists, fundamentalists and so on.

The Americans have spared no effort in painting a distorted picture of Iran and some other countries, claiming that these countries have been violating human rights and oppressing minorities and women.

To punish these states, the United States created legislation such as the economic sanction on Aug. 5 against Iran and Libya, asking other countries to limit their commercial and economic involvement in these countries.

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Velayati Discusses Key Int'l Issues with U.N. Chief, Counterparts

IRAN NEWS POLITICAL DESK
TEHRAN - U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali met Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati at the United Nations Monday and discussed key international and regional developments.

Velayati, heading a delegation is currently in New York for the 51st U.N. General Assembly.

During the meeting, they discussed the latest developments in Afghanistan, Tajikistan, Northern Iraq and the Middle East as well as Iran's mediation efforts between Uganda and Sudan.

Velayati, in regard to the critical Afghan situation, ruled out any military solution to the existing crisis. He added that all Afghan groups should be actively involved in the administration.

Turning to the influx of the Kurdish refugees from Northern Iraq, the Iranian foreign minister said that the Kurds should solve their problems through peaceful means.

In a related development, Velayati also met his Tunisian counterpart Habib ben Yahia Monday to review broadening of Tehran-Tunis relations as well as international and regional developments, including the latest Zionist crime as well as situation in northern Africa, Persian Gulf, Northern

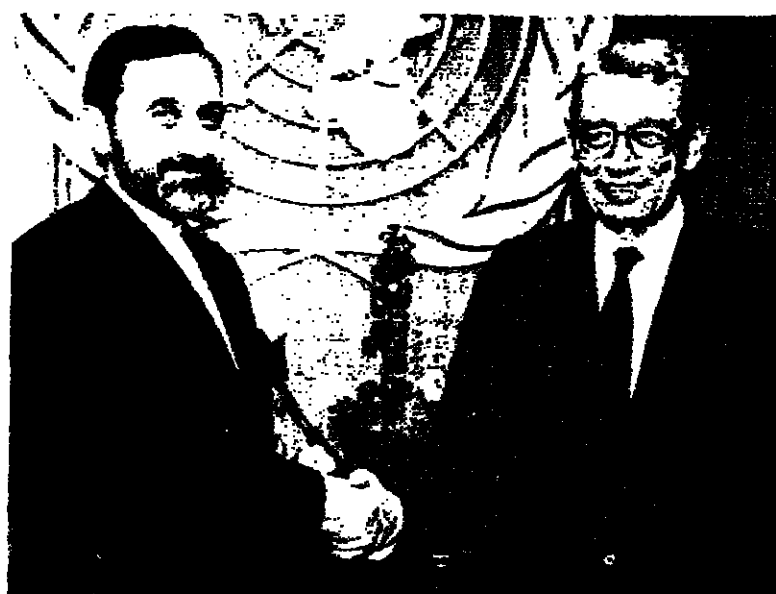
Iranian Jews Condemn Killing at Al-Aqsa Mosque

IRAN NEWS POLITICAL DESK
TEHRAN - The Iranian Jewish community yesterday condemned the killing of Muslim worshippers at the Al-Aqsa Mosque by Israeli troops.

In a statement issued here, the Jewish minority Majlis (Parliament) Deputy Manuchehr Elyasi deplored Israel's disrespect for religious belief of people.

The massacre of Muslims at the Al-Aqsa Mosque came at a time when Jews throughout the world, on the occasion of the Jewish new year prayed for peace and brotherhood, added the statement.

On behalf of the Iranian Jews and all the freedom-loving Jews of the world, Elyasi expressed his hatred over the violation of the rights of the innocent people, IRNA reported.



UNITED NATIONS, NEW YORK: Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati (L) shakes hands with the Secretary General of the United Nations Boutros Boutros-Ghali (R) Sept. 30 at U.N. headquarters in New York. Velayati is in New York attending the 51st session of the U.N. General Assembly.

(AFP Photo)

Iraq and Afghanistan.

The two ministers underlined the need to back the Palestinian nation in their struggle against Zionist occupiers and to defend Bait-ul-Moqaddas as the first Qibla of Muslims.

The Israeli regime is taking advantage of discord and disunity existing between Palestinian groups and Islamic and Arab countries, using them as means of

achieving its objectives, Yahia said.

He appealed to the members of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) to defend Palestinians' rights.

He further voiced his country's willingness to further consolidate ties with Iran, IRNA reported.

Velayati, commenting on critical situation in the occupied lands and the need for an urgent and de-

cisive measure by the Islamic countries, said that the latest Zionist crime has caused concern in the world of Islam.

He stressed that Iran attaches great importance to defending the rights of the Palestinians and to protection of holy places.

The Iranian foreign minister said that a firm stance should be adopted in forthcoming New York meeting of OIC. In a separate meeting Monday evening, Velayati reviewed issues of mutual interest with his Armenian counterpart Vahan Papazyan.

Underlining the need to promote Tehran-Yerevan ties, the two ministers stressed importance of holding trilateral meetings among regional states.

The recent presidential elections in Armenia as well as ways of settling Yerevan-Baku dispute were also reviewed by the two ministers.

Meanwhile, in a meeting yesterday Velayati and Senegalese Foreign Affairs Minister Moustapha Niasse, stressed that OIC should take serious measures against the recent Zionist crimes in the occupied lands.

Velayati said that Al-Aqsa Mosque is an Islamic issue and that OIC should take a more decisive stance towards violation of the sanctity of this holy place and massacre of Muslim worshippers.

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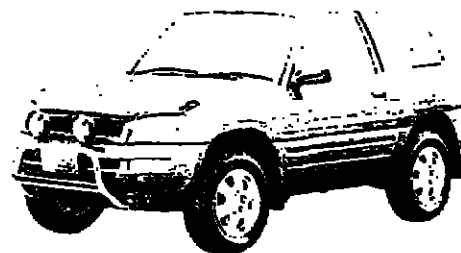
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GUEST IN TOWN

Iran Always Remained in Bangladesh Official's Dream

A senior Bangladesh government official said: "Upon arrival in Tehran, my old dream came true."
Commerce Ministry Deputy Secretary Mir Munir-uz Zaman talking to IRAN-NEWS said, "I have always dreamt about Iran's ancient history and its role in the Islamic world, and I always wanted to come here."



Munir



Gias Uddin

Munir, as he prefers to be called, was in the daily's offices yesterday. He arrived in Tehran to supervise the Bangladesh pavilion at the Tehran International Trade Fair inaugurated yesterday by President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani.

Munir said, "Iran is a regular participant at the Dhaka International Trade Fair and also organizes solo exhibitions which are welcomed by the people of Bangladesh."

How does he view the Tehran Trade Fair? "It's great, and it is very good exhibition of Iranian economic progress," Munir responded.

"Iran's economic progress is important for Bangladesh as our ties with the Islamic Republic are growing," Munir, 50, married with a daughter said. He has been in government service for 20 years and served his country's Foreign Ministry for a short period.

Iran is a major importer of Bangladesh's tea and jute. Currently Iran has four jute mills and raw material for them is supplied by Bangladesh.

Bangladesh Embassy's Commercial Counselor Md Gias Uddin, who accompanied Munir, said Iran's annual imports from Bangladesh are estimated at around \$35 million in return of exports worth \$20 million.

Munir said, "Certain specific steps are being taken and I'm quite optimistic that bilateral trade will grow."



Majlis Speaker, Sierra Leone President Meet

IRAN NEWS PARLIAMENTARY DESK

TEHRAN - The visiting President of Sierra Leone Ahmad Tejan Kabbah met with Majlis Speaker Hojatoleslam Nateq-Nouri here yesterday and called for Iran's continued assistance to his country.

Praising Iran's economic and industrial development, he expressed hope his country could use Iran's experiences in this regard.

Nateq-Nouri said he hoped bilateral relations between the two countries would expand in various areas and that Iran was ready to provide the people of Sierra Leone with its "valuable post-war experiences".

The balance of trade between the two countries shows that from January to April 1996, Iran exported 360.9m marks worth of goods (oil and non-oil) to Germany, and imported from Germany goods worth 629.3m marks. The same period last year, Iran's exports stood at 429.2m marks, imports at 761.8m marks.

Germany Goes Against U.S. D'Amato Law

BY: NADER ADABI

TEHRAN - Germany has from the start been against the D'Amato Bill, according to a high ranking German official speaking to IRAN NEWS here yesterday.

Jens Sichelshmidt, a representative from the German Federal Ministry of Economy, is here to man the German pavilion in the International Trade Fair.

He commented that Iran has attained remarkable industrial growth during the last few years and "Germany is willing to help Iran maintain its steady growth and develop in specialist fields." And Iran has paid its debts on schedule, he added.

"We are very much willing to make joint capital investment with Iran and have reached some agreements in this but Iran needs to make better provisions in its foreign investment laws to facilitate such investment," Sichelshmidt said.

The balance of trade between the two countries shows that from January to April 1996, Iran exported 360.9m marks worth of goods (oil and non-oil) to Germany, and imported from Germany goods worth 629.3m marks. The same period last year, Iran's exports stood at 429.2m marks, imports at 761.8m marks.

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SURA 61, RANKS (AL-SAFF)

In the Name of God
The Beneficent, the Merciful

7. And who shall be more wicked than the one,
Who forges lies concerning God, while he
Unto Islam was being called upon:
And surely God does not direct the people,
Involved in wrong and evil.

*The 30th part of the Holy Quran is obtainable in exquisite book-form from: KASA Publication Tel. 883 4844-5 (F.N.)

PRAYER TIMES

Noon (Zohr)	11:54
Evening (Maghreb)	18:07
Tomorrow's Dawn (Fajr)	04:28
Tomorrow's Sunrise	05:59

Larijani Blasts Khorassan MP for Misleading Allegations

IRAN NEWS PARLIAMENTARY DESK

TEHRAN - Majlis Deputy Gholamheidar Ebrahim Baysalami yesterday protested against alleged negotiation with Israel by Majlis representatives, during a pre-agenda address here.

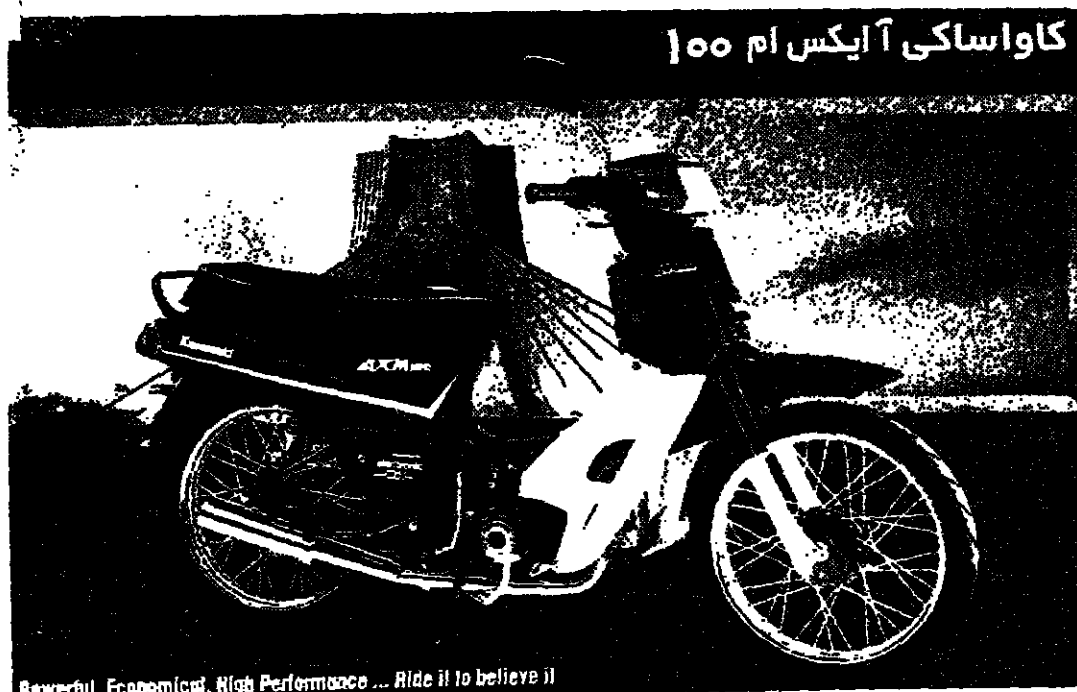
Baysalami, MP from Khorassan and member of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) said, "I call on the head of the Inter-Parliamentary Union to explain to the Majlis why he did not walk out when Israeli parliamentary members were addressing the session."

In response, Mohammad Javad Larijani, head of the IPU, said, "No negotiation was conducted with the Israeli parliamentary group in the IPU session in Beijing, and when Israeli MP's were present there was no Iranian delegation in the session."
He demanded that Baysalami apologize for his deliberate allegation and expressed amazement at the fact that Baysalami had relied on reports from Radio Israel.

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On the Occasion of the 51th Anniversary of the Foundation of the Worker's Party of Korea

The Workers' Party of Korea Will Shine for Ever as the Party of Comrade Kim Il Sung

To the Workers' Party of Korea (WPK), October 10 is a highly significant date, for on this day it celebrates the 51st anniversary of its foundation.

On this occasion we look back with deep emotion upon the glorious road of struggle the WPK has traveled, winning its great victories and bringing about radical changes by acclaiming and following Comrade as its leader.

The history of the WPK is, in fact, the history of Comrade's revolutionary activities, for both the laborious path of the party's struggle and its road to glorious victory bear his sacred footprints. The party's achievements, its strength and its prestige would be incomplete without his great name.

A working-class party is founded and developed by a leader in order to realize his ideals and causes.

Comrade Kim Il Sung worked with great energy from the earliest years of his revolutionary activities to found the party.

Under his leadership and in the midst of a 20-year-long revolutionary struggle against Japanese domination, the organizational and ideological bases for the WPK were laid and consolidated, and the revolutionary traditions of the party came into existence.

As a result, Comrade founded the WPK on October 10, 1945.

It was he who created the Juche idea, the new scientific world outlook that reflects both the popular masses' desire for independence and the requirements of the times. Guided by the Juche idea, he showed the masses the independent way to shape their destiny and built the revolutionary party. All this has been the most brilliant achievement of Comrade.

By implementing the Juche idea and the theory of party-building based on it, Comrade built the WPK into a revolutionary party. This meant a party armed with the ideas and leadership system of the leader, a militant party with a strong sense of organization and discipline, and a mass party firmly rooted in the broad sections of the population.

Comrade Kim Il Sung built the WPK in a far-sighted way that ensured the party would be able to



H.E. Kim Il Sung (R) and H.E. Kim Jong Il (L)

carry on its cause down through the generations. Looking into the distant future, he pointed out the way for the party and the

revolution, laid firm organizational and ideological bases for the party and established the leadership system for the continuation

and accomplishment of the revolutionary cause. As a result, the ideas and leadership of Comrade Kim Il Sung have been firmly passed on to the great Leader Comrade Kim Jong Il.

In the 51 years since its founding, the WPK has led the masses, won great victories in revolution and construction and gained a great deal of rich and valuable experience.

The division of the country by forces, the Fatherland Liberation War against the allied forces of imperialism, the ceaseless imperialist maneuvering for aggression and sabotage, the turbulent international situation, the collapse of socialism elsewhere and the subsequent intensification of anti-socialist, anti-DPRK machinations by imperialists and reactionaries in the face of all these events the WPK never ceased to build its socialism centered on the masses and staunchly defend the sovereignty of the country and the achieve-

ments of the revolution. In leading the revolution

and construction, the party has consistently applied the principles and methods of leadership that safeguarded the demands and interests of the popular masses, firmly established Juche and unwaveringly adhered to the line of inde-

pendence. Proceeding from the fundamental interests of the revolution, it has followed the principles of the working class and socialism in revolution and construction, and carried out the revolutionary line with consistency.

Today the WPK continues to safeguard the ideas, theories and leadership methods of Comrade Kim Il Sung, thoroughly applying them in party-building and in its activities. It carries out its work of revolution and construction just as Comrade Kim Il Sung planned and showed in his personal example, conducting its affairs in the manner of Comrade Kim Il Sung.

In this way the WPK honors Comrade Kim Il Sung as the eternal leader of the Party and revolution, upholding the party as the glorious Party of Comrade Kim Il Sung.

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Pizza Express	800
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Salad Express	560
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IRAN

WORLD NEWS

and eventually stop working.

In the brain, the blood vessels begin to overstretch. If they get too weak, they may burst, causing a stroke or cerebrovascular accident. The kidneys can also suffer, because their tiny arteries can be damaged by high blood pressure. The kidneys can stop filtering out waste products from the blood, resulting in sickness and even death.

These problems can develop and create major organ damage without causing any noticeable symptoms. Luckily, this damage can be prevented if blood pressure is controlled. However, if treatment is stopped, the blood pressure usually goes back up.

The key to successful blood pressure control is your cooperation as a patient. You should take medications exactly the way they are prescribed. It is important to see your doctor at regular intervals so he or she can check your progress and adjust your treatment if necessary. Follow your doctor's recommendations about diet, exercise and lifestyle changes that can add many healthy, happy and comfortable years to your life.

The IPU held its session from September 14-22 in Beijing, and the false report on Israeli radio about negotiations between Iranian and Israeli deputies had been formally rejected.

revolutionary people, the President stressed.

The favorable participation of domestic companies is a good sign of the soundness of the path the Islamic Republic of Iran has chosen for economic development, he added.

He concluded by expressing hope that the fair would be a step toward greater solidarity among nations and promote science, technology, and security in the region.

Minister of Commerce Yahya Aftabkhani also addressed the audience, noting, "Iran's existing infrastructures and facilities give tidings of enhanced participation at global markets."

"Right now, Iran enjoys highly favorable conditions for economic and commercial cooperation with the regional countries," he said.

Interestingly, the United States along with Pakistan and Saudi Arabia provided all sorts of political, military and financial assistance to the Taliban.

And as the time passes, it becomes crystal clear that the Taliban are not just reactionary forces that belong to the past centuries, they are really living in a world which does not even exist, and they are creating the worst possible image for Islam.

Before the advent of the Taliban on the political scene, a balance of power existed in Afghanistan. There were groups in Afghanistan who favored peace and stability, and the Americans had many chances of giving them the support they needed.

But the U.S. withheld that support, and suddenly changed its strategy in favor of a group which has the least idea of human rights and other international values.

Now the question is how much the Americans are going to stake on the crude oil and natural gas of the Central Asia? Up to what extent will they sacrifice basic human values for the sake of oil, gas and other rich economic resources hidden beneath the soil in the region?

The current developments in Afghanistan reveal the real nature of the United States.

He expressed hope that the country would be able to optimally reach its commercial and economic objectives in the future.

President of the Export Promotion Center of Iran (EPCI) Ali Saeedlou was the next speaker who said, "Participation of around 1,500 foreign companies from 54 countries and 2,500 domestic companies has made the fair one of the largest and most beautiful international commercial exhibitions."

He underscored the Islamic Republic of Iran's great interest in updating and promoting economic and political relations with friendly and brotherly countries.

Saeedlou added that 33 specialized exports fairs and 10 international fairs have been held at home over the past year, while domestic producers have taken part in 18 international fairs abroad.

Held at the permanent site of Tehran's International Fair grounds, the trade fair occupies an area of about 200,000 sq. meters, including 70,000 sq. meters of open space and 130,000 sq. meters of roofed space.

The fair will be open only to the specialists from Wednesday October 2 to Saturday October 5 after which public inspection will take place until October 9.

Jordan, Indonesia, Ukraine, Syria, Qatar, Moldova and Singapore are taking part in the fair for the first time.

its acts and deeds, the Russian vice-speaker pointed out.

On the Taliban's invasion and conquest of Kabul, Baburin noted, "I feel that any individual or group that comes to power in Afghanistan by relying on political terrorism should be condemned by the international community."

"The Afghan people should also condemn and reject such a person or group," he emphasized.

On Russia's future presidency, Baburin said, "Right now, Yeltsin is not so sick that he cannot run the country's affairs. Over the past 5 to 6 years, his ailment has not created any dramatic developments in the country's political and economic affairs."

This means that Russia can respond to the U.S. or to any international issue set forth by other countries, he maintained.

Baburin remarked, "In addition, until full recovery, President Yeltsin will have to relegate his authority to Viktor Chernomyrdin."

Vegor Suruyev, who is the head

of the Russian Federation, will be the next person to carry out Yeltsin's duties until he recovers. Baburin added.

The vice speaker said, "There are many people who wish to be presidential candidates in Russia, and so no problem will surface."

He noted, "No matter what happens to Yeltsin, developments will only pertain to domestic policies. No change will appear in the Russian foreign policy which is based on a revised outlook toward the East and the South."

Asked by IRAN NEWS to comment on this revised outlook, Baburin said, "Through this revised outlook we follow several goals: First, defending our national interests, and second, preserving Russian territorial integrity and independence."

"I believe that there are many ways for Iran-Russian cooperation. Over the past 15 years, Iran has served as a role model in defending the aforementioned objectives, especially when one of the big powers opposed the Islamic Republic," he said.

Baburin added, "Through this struggle, the Islamic Republic of Iran justified its choice of development. Right now, Russia is pursuing this same objective."

He noted, "Political or economic crises are not our present-day problems. Rather, the fact that our major traditional values are being inspired by the U.S. poses as a serious problem for us."

"For this reason, we believe that concurrent with the membership of East European countries in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), Russia should also turn toward the East and the South," he stated.

Asked whether Russia would tolerate the East European countries' membership in NATO, he replied, "No, Russia will not tolerate it and will counter this move through rapid promotion of technical and military cooperation with the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), the Islamic Republic of Iran, and some Arab countries."

Asked whether the revised outlook toward the East and the South is a continuation of the past policy of gaining access to the warm waters, Baburin responded, "In the past, the Czarist Russia opted for expansionism by conquering lands, but nowadays Moscow thinks only of cooperation."

The vice-speaker noted, "The time is now ripe for Iran-Russian cooperation, but many barriers exist along the way. For instance, the U.S. prevented enhanced military cooperation between Iran and Russia and still precludes it."

"Consequently, Russia should strive to turn from the West toward the East and the South, because up to a while back, Russia opted for cooperation with the West," he explained.

"Some Caspian Sea littoral states, meanwhile, are not pleased with the expansion of Iran-Russian cooperation. For instance, one can glance at the unilateral measures taken by Azerbaijan and Kazakhstan in the Caspian Sea," the vice-speaker noted.

"It is also natural for Pakistan to muster efforts to prevent such cooperation between Iran and Russia, while some European countries, pressured by the U.S., might oppose such unity," he said.

"Some Russian social circles have certain misconceptions which prevent enhanced cooperation and unity between Iran and Russia," he stressed.

"Unilateral historical judg-

ments by some Iranian social circles can also adversely affect the two countries' joint cooperation," emphasized.

"Some Iranian politicians might also prevent such unity, but nonetheless, I am optimistic," he concluded.

along, even before it was passed, objected to this legislation as being quite contrary to international law and an unacceptable extension of extraterritoriality," Brittan said.

were seen burying massive quantities of explosives to blow up the single lane dirt road running alongside the river.

There is now no access to the Panjshir Valley by car from the nearby town of Gulbahaar, which is occupied by the Taliban.

Scores of families were seen leaving the Panjshir on foot yesterday before soldiers blew up the road.

Two smaller explosions on Monday denied Taliban tanks access to the Panjshir, but civilians were able to get through.

Soon after the Taliban captured the provincial capital of Charikar on Sunday they pushed north to Jabbul us-Saraj and Gulbahaar.

At least three Taliban infantry attempts to get into the Panjshir from Gulbahaar were repulsed, Bismillah Khan said.

"We have put men on top of all the mountains here. This is our native country and you can expect that we know how to deal with our enemies who trespass," said Bismillah Khan.

Masood, who travelers reported seeing in the Panjshir town of Bozarak Monday, has massive stockpiles of heavy weapons and ammunition, but observers have raised doubts about the morale of his men to stand firm.

Bismillah Khan used to be commander of Bagram Airbase to the south, from where Masood saved jets, transport planes and helicopters before it was captured by the Taliban.

East of the neighboring provincial capital of Kunduz, is Takhar Province where the ousted government of Rabbani and ex-Prime Minister Gulbuddin Hekmatyar is reportedly based in the capital Takhar.

During the 10-year Soviet occupation of Afghanistan, Masood resisted more than a dozen major Red Army offensives into the 150 kilometers (90 mile) long Panjshir Valley.

But there is intense speculation among Western analysts on whether Masood can hold out against the Taliban or whether he would try to build a military alliance with his former foe Dostam.

A Masood deputy was reported to have had radio contact Monday night with a Dostam deputy about an alliance. Personal differences between the two main leaders have so far precluded any deal.

Judging by the sparse Taliban defenses inside Kabul and along the main road north, a Masood-Dostam coalition could push back the religious militia, analysts said.

The victory of the Islamic fundamentalist Taliban faction in Afghanistan poses a threat to Central Asia and Russia, the Russian National Security Chief Alexander Lebed said yesterday.

Lebed said that if the Taliban, "backed by Pakistan," manage to "wipe out" the Russian border posts in Tajikistan, "the road to

the plains to the north would be open," Interfax reported.

Lebed said the Taliban wanted to annex parts of Uzbekistan and Tajikistan.

If Moscow does not take serious diplomatic steps to bring order in Afghanistan, the 21-month war in Chechnya "will look like a small sore" in comparison, he said.

Lebed, who negotiated a peace accord ending the Chechnya War, was a general in the Soviet paratroopers during the Soviet occupation of Afghanistan, which ended in 1989.

Among the first acts of the Taliban after they captured the Afghan capital Kabul on Friday was to execute the Soviet-era President, Mohammed Najibullah, who was hiding in the U.N. compound.

Earlier Russian Foreign Minister Yevgeni Primakov told Interfax that Russia was not planning to make contact with the new Islamic power.

Primakov told Russian journalists before leaving for visits to Rabat and New York, "This question is not on the agenda."

He was sharply critical of the United Nations, saying the body had broken its 1992 commitment to guarantee the safety of Najibullah.

U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher said Monday, "It's clear to me that the Middle East peace process is in a state of crisis."

Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak declined an invitation from Clinton to attend the summit which started yesterday.

Israeli President Ezer Weizman yesterday warned of a new war in the Middle East if the Washington summit failed to relaunch the peace process.

"I hope that all the parties understand that if we do not go down the path of peace we will end up with war, and that would be hard for everyone," Weizman said on Israeli radio.

"Israel has to show reason to restart the peace process, otherwise we run the risk of a new conflict," he added.

Weizman also confirmed that he warned Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak in a telephone conversation that Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu would not commit to a date for starting the long-delayed withdrawal of Israeli troops from the volatile West Bank town of Hebron.

Observers in the region also believe that the Arab-Israeli meeting would produce no favorable results so long as they are not convinced of the needs for a fair and comprehensive peace.

They call on Netanyahu to stick to the principles of the peace process and implement the accords and understandings reached between the two parties.

An AFP dispatch from the occupied territories said Palestinians held out little hope of progress from the summit, fearing that Netanyahu simply does not want peace.

Netanyahu already faces a no-confidence motion in the Israeli Parliament (Knesset) early next week which was brought by the opposition Labor Party after the worst of Israeli-Palestinian fighting in 30 years.

Netanyahu, speaking with reporters on his plane en route to Washington, offered to hold continuous negotiations with the Palestinians after the summit and "until agreement is reached."

But a senior U.S. official described Arafat and Netanyahu as so distrustful of each other that simply ordering them to "re-engage" in order of business at the summit.

"They are not talking to each other in a way that anything could be resolved," said the official, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

He said the summit agenda must include Hebron, the West Bank town where Israel has not fulfilled a pledge to pull its troops away from Arab residents, and safe passage for Palestinian workers entering and leaving Israel.

The official said the United States was not insisting the summit deal with Netanyahu's decision to open a new entrance to a tourist tunnel that borders Muslim and Jewish holy sites in Jerusalem - an action that touched off Arab anger.

However, the two sides could bring up any issue they wished, the official said.

Clinton planned to meet separately yesterday with Netanyahu and then Arafat before all parties sat down together.

In a setback for the White House, Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak rejected Clinton's telephone invitation to join Jordan's King Hussein as a summit participant. Hussein arrived in Washington Monday night.

Mubarak's absence was unlikely to seriously affect chances of defusing tensions on the West Bank and in Gaza or U.S. efforts to launch Israeli-Palestinian negotiations on a permanent peace agreement. But the administration had looked on him as a steady influence - Egypt was the first Arab country to agree to peace with Israel - and as a potential supporter of whatever agreements might emerge from the talks.

Mubarak was sending his Foreign Minister, Amr Musa, to Washington, but State Department spokesman Nicholas Burns said Musa would not participate in the talks.

Republican presidential nominee Bob Dole said the United States must demand an "unconditional end to the violence," but added: "Our friend Israel must not be asked to make concessions as a means of restoring order."

EU foreign ministers moved yesterday to boost the autonomy of the Palestinian territories, issuing a green light for the European Commission to negotiate an accord to increase trade and political ties.

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ANALYSIS

Eye on Greater East Asia

"Singapore's Drive to Insulate herself from Controversial Content on the Internet"



BY: BEHZAD SHAIANDEH, PH.D.

As of last week, Singapore's three Internet service providers were armed with proxy servers or special computers programmed to block access to sites the government deems objectionable.

The censorship covers Internet service providers and resellers, groups and individuals providing political and religious content, and individuals operating business web pages.

The Singapore Broadcasting Authority said the rules were to keep the City State's cyberspace clean so that the 100,000 Internet account holders would not have easy access to "objectionable materials". Experts said asking net users to link to proxy servers acting as filters blocking disallowed sites could slow down access time and become costly. Internet access would face acute delays if the list of banned sites became longer. The authorities of the Lion City have already identified and banned about 100 sites.

Singapore's Internet censorship rules have come under criticism because they are seen to excessively protect the government. One section bars "contents which tend to bring the government into hatred or contempt, or which excite disaffection against the government."

This ruling, if enshrined, would grant unchecked - possibly uncheckable - power to the ruling body to deny any criticism of it on the Internet. While in censoring other Singapore media, the focus has been on "national interests" rather than too narrowly on those of the "government of the day".

The Island Republic officials have been quoted as saying that the rulings were drawn from existing legislation and they do not justify the claim that the political rules have been changed to the advantage of the government. The state's swiftness in regulating cyberspace comes amid swelling Internet interest among Singapore's three million people.

The Telecommunication Authority of Singapore (TAS) said that within a year the number of Internet subscribers had grown 650 percent to about 100,000. The authorities expect three-digit growth in Internet subscriptions at least for the next year or two. The trend is clear. Everyone who buys a PC is or will become an Internet user.

Singapore has achieved what it has achieved since independence in 1965 through a controlled system, authoritarian but one that has delivered the promised goods. And now that its citizens enjoy per capita income of over \$26,000, with exports of over \$125 billion, financial reserves of \$72 billion and no foreign debt, the emerging, intellectually advanced island of the region should allow no slacking. Otherwise pornographic and other controversial content on the Internet will damage the hard won prosperity Singapore has achieved.

As we believe in Iran, freedom comes with responsibility, not recklessness or complete and uncontrolled self-oriented desires. In order to keep Singapore clean, not only physically but socially, such controls as proxy servers to block unwanted or obscene sites will be needed. A healthy society is one that keeps vigilant for evil things and by being ever ready to combat spiritual pollution.

Yemen, Eritrea Agree Arbitration Over Red Sea

PARIS, FRANCE (Reuters) - Yemen and Eritrea have agreed to go to an arbitration court to solve their territorial dispute over Red Sea islands, the French Foreign Ministry which mediated in the row said yesterday.

It said the two sides would sign a compromise on Thursday in Paris creating an arbitration court.

"The two sides agreed on all the provisions of an arbitration compromise creating an arbitration court to settle their dispute," the ministry said.

Arah Yemen and African

Eritrea, facing each other across the Red Sea, both claim sovereignty over the small, arid Hanish islands. The dispute triggered clashes which killed at least 12 people last December.

France mediated in the dispute, and Egypt and Ethiopia also exerted mediation efforts to end the conflict.

The islands are near vital shipping lanes used by more than 100 ships daily carrying 125,000 barrels of oil shipped by Persian Gulf producers to customers in Europe via Egypt's Suez Canal.

Tit-for-Tat Expulsion of Diplomats Accused of Spying for India, Pakistan

NEW DELHI, INDIA (AFP) - Pakistan and India yesterday ordered tit-for-tat expulsions of diplomats for spying.

An unnamed official from the Pakistani High Commission will leave the India capital by Thursday at the latest, diplomatic sources said, adding that the man had been released from police custody hours after his arrest Sunday.

In Islamabad, a non-diplomatic staff member of the Indian High Commission (Embassy) identified as A.C. Sinha was ordered to quit Pakistan by Friday after his overnight arrest, the Foreign Office said.

Both men were reportedly turned over to their respective embassies after being arrested on spying charges, and both countries lodged protests after the arrests.

The developments in New Delhi and Islamabad came two years after the Indian and Pakistan governments triggered off a similar "spy-war" and expelled diplomats after charging them with espionage.

The issue came to a head when India shut down its consulate in Islamabad after accusing Pakistan of harassing its diplomats and staff.

The two countries have fought three wars, two of them over Kashmir, since the subcontinent's partition in 1947 by British colonial rulers.



LONDON, UNITED KINGDOM: Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto arrives at Downing Street Sept. 30 for a meeting with British Prime Minister John Major, after she had faced a barrage of abuse outside the hotel where she had been giving a speech from a small group of Pakistani supporters of the political group Mohajir Quami Movement shouting slogans branding her "fascist" and "blood-thirsty".

(AFP Photo)

KIM: South Korea to Review All North Policies in Wake of Sub Incident



SEOUL, SOUTH KOREA (AFP) - South Korean President Kim Young-Sam said yesterday that he would review all his government's policies on North Korea in the wake of a submarine intrusion into the South last month.

"I intend to review all government policies on North Korea, putting the emphasis on ways to effectively counter North Korea's strategy for communizing the South by force," Kim said in a headline speech on Armed Forces Day.

"As president of the republic, I feel acutely once again that we have to cope with the situation more firmly and realistically until North Korea gives up its illusions for good," he said.

Saying that impoverished Pyongyang was still "pouring enormous amounts into military expenditure" to maintain its 1.1 million-strong armed forces, Kim said South Korea's food aid for the North would be reviewed.

"Unless North Korea fundamentally changes its attitude, we will reconsider all assistance to it, including charity, if it is not the result of negotiations," he said.

Kim, a former dissident, warned he would crack down on "unrealistic and illusory discussions about unification and pro-communist ways of thinking," which he said could encourage the North to miscalculate.

Lebed to Report to Parliament on Chechnya Peace Process

MOSCOW, RUSSIA (AFP) - Russia's chief peace negotiator in Chechnya, Security Chief Alexander Lebed, will report on the situation in the breakaway republic to the Lower House of Parliament today, Itar-Tass news agency reported yesterday.

Lebed's report to the State Duma will be accompanied by reports from Defense and Interior Ministry officials.

The two ministries began withdrawing their troops from Chechnya in early September, in line with a peace accord which Lebed signed with Chechen separatist rebel leaders on August 31.

The Russian Federal command said 11,000 Defense Ministry troops were expected to leave Chechnya this month, and the more numerous Interior Ministry forces were due to start withdrawing before mid-October. Separatist Leader Zelimkhan Yandarbiyev is expected in Moscow this week for talks on forming a coalition government in Chechnya, where a cease-fire has been holding for more than a month.

A Russian government spokesman said Yandarbiyev may meet Prime Minister Viktor Chir-



Yandarbiyev, who is due to return from Switzerland late today.

Kurdish Rebels Launch Series of Attacks on Civilians

MADEN, TURKEY (AP) - Kurdish rebels, challenging a major Turkish offensive, killed nine people and wounded 16 others in a surge of overnight attacks on civilian targets, news reports said yesterday.

The rebels raked a coffee house with gunfire in this town in eastern Turkey, killing two civilians and wounding 16 others, including six policemen, the semi-official Anatolia news agency said.

The policemen were on duty but apparently enjoying a break at the coffee house at the time of the raid.

Maden lies 770 kilometers (480 miles) east of Ankara.

In two separate attacks in southeastern Diyarbakir province, the rebels killed four elementary school teachers in Hantepe village and three private guards at a dam, the agency said.

The guerrillas target teachers in an effort to disrupt the state education system in the Kurdish-dominated southeast. They have killed over 50 teachers and burned down several schools in the past three years.

The Kurdish language is banned in education and broadcasting.

The attacks followed a major army crackdown on Kurdish rebels in Turkey's southeast, and was seen as a show of strength by the rebels.

Last week the Turkish general staff announced that 1,000 rebels were killed in the past one month.

Kurdish guerrillas have been fighting for autonomy in Turkey's southeast since 1984. The war has killed more than 21,000 people.

South Koreans React Angrily to Japan's LDP Stand on Disputed Islands

SEOUL, SOUTH KOREA (AFP) - South Korean ruling and opposition MPs yesterday lambasted Japan's Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) for including Tokyo's claim to the disputed Tokdo-Takeshima islets in its election platform.

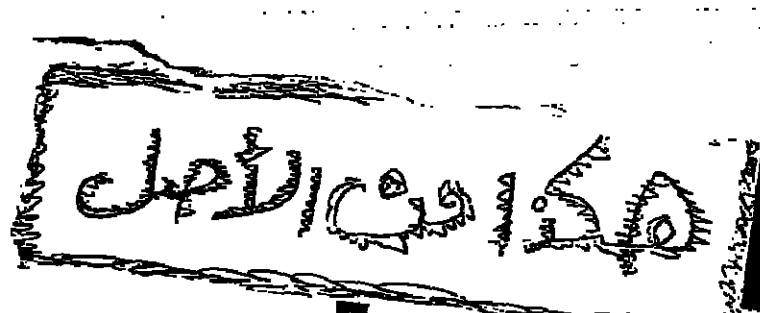
"We will not tolerate any destruction of the order in east Asia by Japan," the ruling New Korea Party (NKP) said in a statement, referring to the LDP's pledge to uphold Tokyo's claim to the group of rocky islets in the Sea of Japan.

The NKP statement accused Tokyo of "seeking to disrupt the foundations of the post-war international order in the region."

An "imperialist aggressor" in the past, Japan has enjoyed a free ride in the provision of post-war security measures, which enabled it to successfully pursue its own interests and to prosper, the statement said.

"We will not condone the brazen act by the richest country in Asia of destroying the order in the region," it said.

During a parliamentary inspection of the Foreign Ministry here, both ruling and opposition lawmakers urged the government to get tough with Tokyo over the issue.



Sarajevo Cautiously Optimistic After First Presidency Meeting



SARAJEVO, BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA: Bosnian Serb representative Momcilo Krajisnik (L) gestures as he meets with Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic (C) and Croat representative Kresimir Zubak in Sarajevo Sept. 30. The three members of Bosnia's newly-elected presidency met for the first time.

SARAJEVO (AFP) - Officials in Sarajevo were cautiously optimistic yesterday after Bosnia's first presidency meeting, while the Bosnian Serbs said they must bite the bullet and join common institutions with their former foes.

The three-man presidency was the first of Bosnian joint institutions elected in September 14 polls to meet.

After doubts the meeting would occur, Alija Izetbegovic,

Kresimir Zubak and Momcilo Krajisnik - the Muslim, Croat and Serb representatives - arrived under tight security at a hotel complex on the outskirts of Sarajevo.

They shook hands and got down to four hours of talks on the setting-up of other joint institutions.

They agreed the joint Bosnian Parliament should hold its inaugural session on Saturday and began

talks on the formation of a government "with the aim of completing this before October 30," a statement issued after the meeting said.

Mirza Hajric, an adviser to Izetbegovic, said yesterday "a new process has started."

"It's a matter of cautious optimism. What we do fear is that somebody could be obstructive," he said, in an apparent reference to the Serb representative.

Sarajevo newspapers had a mixed reaction in their yesterday morning editions.

"The future begins on October 5," trumpeted the daily Vecernje Novine, citing the date the Bosnian Parliament is due to meet.

Meanwhile, the daily Oslobođenje urged prudence. "A good sign for the future?" questioned the headline on its editorial, adding that "at least one member of the presidency is opposed to a unified Bosnia."

Momcilo Krajisnik, the ultra-nationalist Serb representative, has called in the past for a separate Serb state.

Yet on his return to the Serb stronghold of Pale Monday evening, Krajisnik said that the Serbs had to get used to meeting their former foes in joint institutions.

Northern Ireland Peace Process Faces Fresh Crisis

BELFAST, NORTHERN IRELAND (AFP) - The faltering Northern Ireland peace process edged closer to the abyss yesterday in the wake of warnings from Protestant paramilitaries that they no longer support political talks and could return to violence.

Late on Monday prisoners from two loyalist paramilitary groups withdrew their support for the peace process, blaming deadlocked talks and IRA provocation.

The threat of a resumption of violence from the loyalists, who have abided by a strict cease-fire since 1994 despite a renewed bombing campaign by nationalist hardliners, would plunge the province back into turmoil.

The Irish government, whose ministers were locked in crisis talks yesterday morning, fears that if loyalists do return to violence, Dublin could suffer the first wave of paramilitary attacks.

Irish Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Dick Spring



SPRING

described a "bleak scenario" created by the possibility of an end to the loyalist cease-fire.

He appealed for "restraint and courage" from the Loyalist camp, which is staunchly committed to continued British rule in Ulster.

U.S. Considered Cruise Missile Attack on Cuba

MIAMI, FLORIDA (AFP) - The United States considered launching a Cruise missile attack on Cuba after Cuban fighter planes shot down two civilian U.S. planes over international waters, administration sources said.

The sources said that in the hours after the February 24 shoot-down of the two civilian planes, President Bill Clinton was offered several options for responding, including a Cruise missile attack on the MiGs' base, some 30 kilometers (20 miles) southwest of Havana.

15 Bahrainis Jailed for Arson Attacks

MANAMA, BAHRAIN (AFP) - Fifteen Bahrainis were each jailed for between six months and five years for committing arson attacks during anti-government unrest sweeping Bahrain for the last two years, a newspaper said yesterday.

The State Security Court jailed two people for five years each, three others for three years and one person for six months for torching a bakery in Isa town south of the capital Manama on February 14, the (Persian) Gulf Daily News said.

The World at a Glance



ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA - A federal judge Monday ordered the pre-trial release of a long-time naval intelligence employee charged with illegally passing top-secret information to South Korea, a close U.S. ally. The magistrate set bond at \$200,000 and described the weight of evidence against Robert Chaegon Kim as "overwhelming."

UNITED NATIONS - Australian Foreign Minister Alexander Downer Monday officially presented a "road map" for nuclear disarmament to the United Nations General Assembly.

ABUJA, NIGERIA - Nigerian military ruler Sani Abacha announced yesterday the creation of six more states in Africa's most populous country.

MOSCOW, RUSSIA - Islamic rebel fighters killed four Russian borderguards and wounded another four in clashes on the Tajik-Afghan border, Interfax news agency reported yesterday, quoting Russian military officials.

COTABATO, PHILIPPINES - An ethnic Chinese businessman was kidnapped here yesterday.

(DISPATCHES)

Tigers Shell Fallen Town, Escalate Bush War

COLOMBO, SRI LANKA (AFP) - Tamil Tiger guerrillas yesterday fired a barrage of mortar bombs at a former bastion now held by Sri Lankan security forces and stepped up hit-and-run revenge attacks, the Defense Ministry said.

The rebel Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) pounded the northern town of Kilinochchi, the last town that was under their control, with long-range attacks but there were no casualties, the ministry said.

It said thousands of soldiers **Burma to Release More than 500 NLD Detainees**

RANGOON, BURMA (AFP) - Burmese authorities said yesterday that more than 500 supporters of Aung San Suu Kyi who were detained last week would soon be released, but warned they would crack down again if she again tried to hold a party congress.

"Letting them go ahead with such meetings would have more serious ramifications, making it more difficult for the authorities to handle," Colonel Kyaw Win, deputy chief of military intelligence, told AFP.

National Conference Takes Early Lead in Kashmir Polls

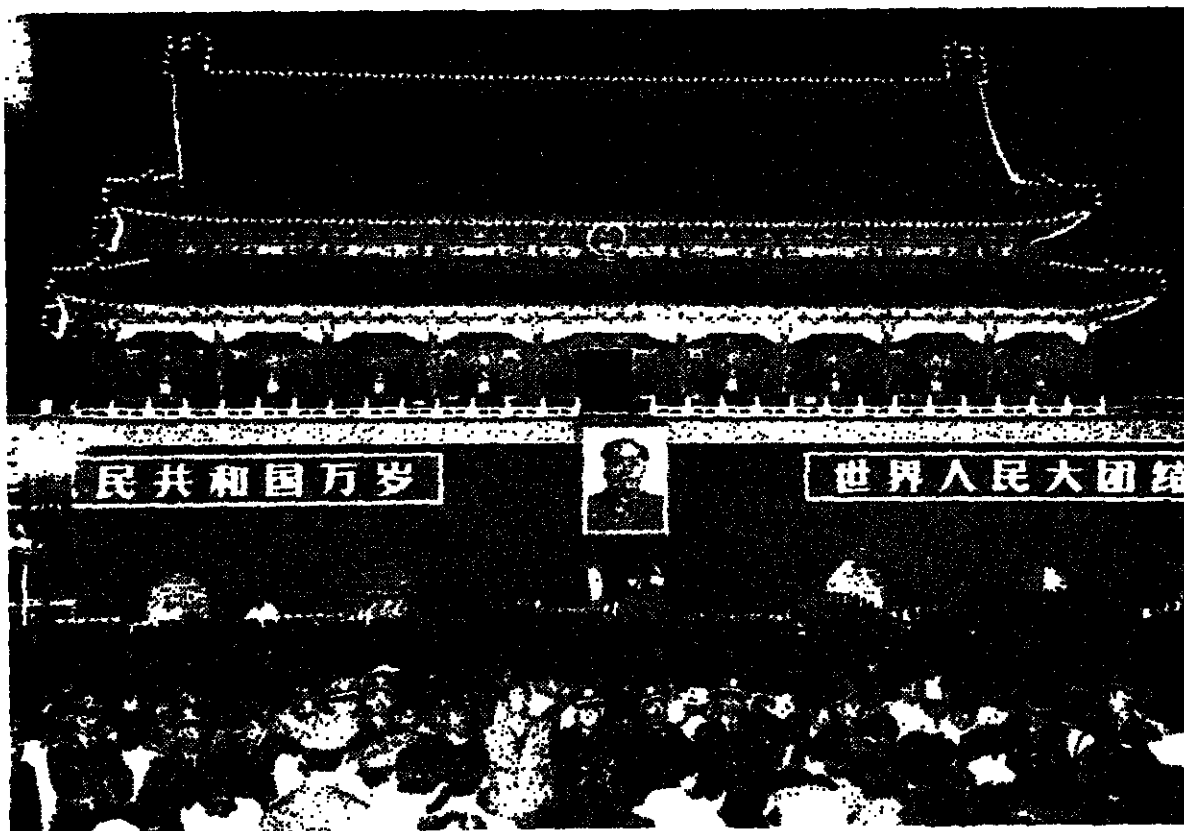
NEW DELHI, INDIA (AFP) - Kashmir's dominant regional party took an early lead as Indian officials began counting votes Monday, a day after the first state elections for almost a decade in the troubled Himalayan territory.

The United News of India said two candidates from the powerful National Conference Party were declared elected, hours after counting for 81 seats in the 87-member Legislative Assembly began amid tight security.

continued to clear mines left behind by the Tigers who were dislodged from the town on Sunday, after a week-long battle that claimed the lives of 269 soldiers and 760 rebels by official count.

In a clear retaliatory attack, the Tigers ambushed an army patrol in the northern peninsula of Jaffna on Monday, killing five troopers and wounding two civilian bystanders, officials said.

Rain Reduces Crowds, But Not Chinese Patriotism



BEIJING, CHINA: Thousands of people gather at Beijing's Tiananmen Square at dawn Oct. 1 to witness the flag-raising ceremony marking the 47th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China. (AFP Photo)

BEIJING, CHINA (AFP) - Steady rain in Beijing yesterday reduced the crowds for national day displays in Tiananmen Square.

But the bad weather did little to dampen strong patriotic feelings fanned in recent months by a strong nationalist campaign and in recent days by top government leaders.

"This is our proud day. Now the world takes notice of China," said Zhang Zhifang, a retired worker proudly flying the national

flag over his small courtyard house a stone's throw from Tiananmen Square.

"China is great and its strong," said a grinning, but bedraggled fruit seller, who in the spirit of China's new capitalism had almost doubled his prices for the National Day holiday.

The square itself - dominated by giant portraits of Mao Zedong and Sun Yatsen - remained an impressive sight, decorated with huge floral displays comprising

most of the one million flower pots used to brighten up the capital's streets for the 47th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China.

In recent days both Premier Li Peng and Foreign Minister Qian Qichen have emphasized the importance of the Communist Party and the growing international strength of China as Hong Kong's return moves closer and the nation's economy flourishes.

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Stoltenberg Wilts Under Swedish Rally

LYON, FRANCE (AFP) - Thomas Enqvist came from 2-5 down in the second set to beat Australia's Jason Stoltenberg 5-7, 7-6 (8/6), 6-1 in the first round of the \$750,000 Lyon Grand Prix ATP men's tennis tournament on Monday.

The fifth-seeded Swede, ranked 13th in the world, broke Stoltenberg twice in the first set but still found himself a set behind as the Australian, 28th in the world, forced him into a string of errors.

But after losing the second tie-breaker 8-6 Stoltenberg's game went to pieces.

Sports Highlights

Tyson Ordered to Pay Rooney \$4.4 Million

ALBANY, NEW YORK (AP) - Mike Tyson was ordered by a jury Monday to pay his former trainer Kevin Rooney \$4.4 million.

Rooney had sued Tyson for \$49 million, claiming the heavyweight champion had broken a lifetime contract.

Activist Al Sharpton had tried to give Tyson moral support Monday by bringing about two dozen demonstrators to the courthouse in Albany. Asked what brought him to Albany, Sharpton answered, "a lynching."

Boxing promoter Don King joined Sharpton in awaiting the verdict. Sharpton's demonstrators carried signs and chanted, "Free Mike Tyson, no chattel slavery."

"It's a joke," Rooney said. "If that's what they're chanting, it just shows how foolish they are, how desperate they are."

Before delivering a verdict, it appeared the eight-member jury was focusing on why Tyson fired Rooney.

Shortly after noon, the jury returned to hear some of Tyson's testimony read back. In the testimony, Tyson explained he no longer wanted to work with Rooney after becoming angry at the trainer for talking publicly about Tyson's marriage to actress Robin Givens and his contract dispute with manager Bill Cayton.

The jury on Thursday, the opening day of deliberations, had asked to see a tape of Rooney's 1988 television interview that had angered Tyson. There were no deliberations since Thursday.

TCC Upset ACC

BASEBALL FEDERATION OF ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN

Tehran Cricket Club beat Azadi Cricket Club by 35 runs in 30 overs match of Friendship Cup Tournament played on Friday, September 27, 1996 at Azadi ground No. 5.

TCC batted first and were all out for 160 runs in 28.4 overs. Mohamed Reza scored 51 runs, Meisam scored 29, Ali Reza Khan 15, Assad 12 and Shabir 10 runs.

Munis was the pick of ACC bowlers taking 3 for 35 runs. Kadir, Lalit and Hamadani took 2 wickets each.

ACC in their reply were all out for 115 runs scored in 26 overs. Their main scores were Kamran 26, Lalit 17 and Maqbool 12 runs.

Karrar took 3 for 23 runs, Meisam 2 for 10, Assad 2 for 22. Mohamed Reza and Shabir took a wicket each.

I.I.C.C. Beat M.S.C.

I.I.C.C. beat M.S.C. by 20 runs to reach the final of the Friendship Cup Tournament.

Although MSC lost to IICC but on point stay are on top of the table and will meet IICC in the final which will be played on Friday, October 4, 1996.

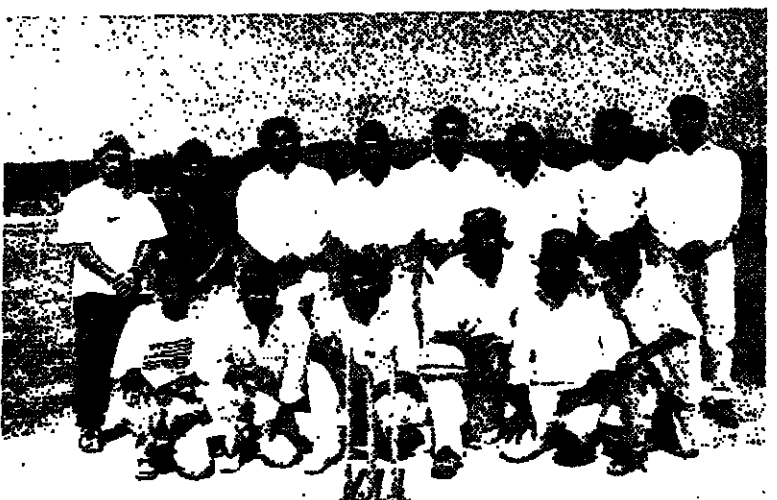
MSC skipper elected to field after winning the toss in the allotted 30 overs. IICC scored 171 runs for the loss of 9 wickets. Honey scored 62, Mukesh 32, Dilpreet 22 and Shabir 13 runs. Abbassi took 3 for 33, Mohammad Reza Dehghampor 2 for 42, Salimian, Ismaili and Nariman took a wicket each.

M.S.C. in reply were all out for 151 runs in 27.3 overs. Once again Salimian showed fine form with the bat and scored 73 runs. He has scored above 50 throughout this tournament.

He was very well supported by Hussein Sadeghi who scored 24 runs. The third wicket partnership between them added 103 runs.

Manpreet took 3 for 21, Mukesh 2 for 19, honey 2 for 26, Juggoo Sawhney and Monty took a wicket each. Honey was named "Man of the Match".

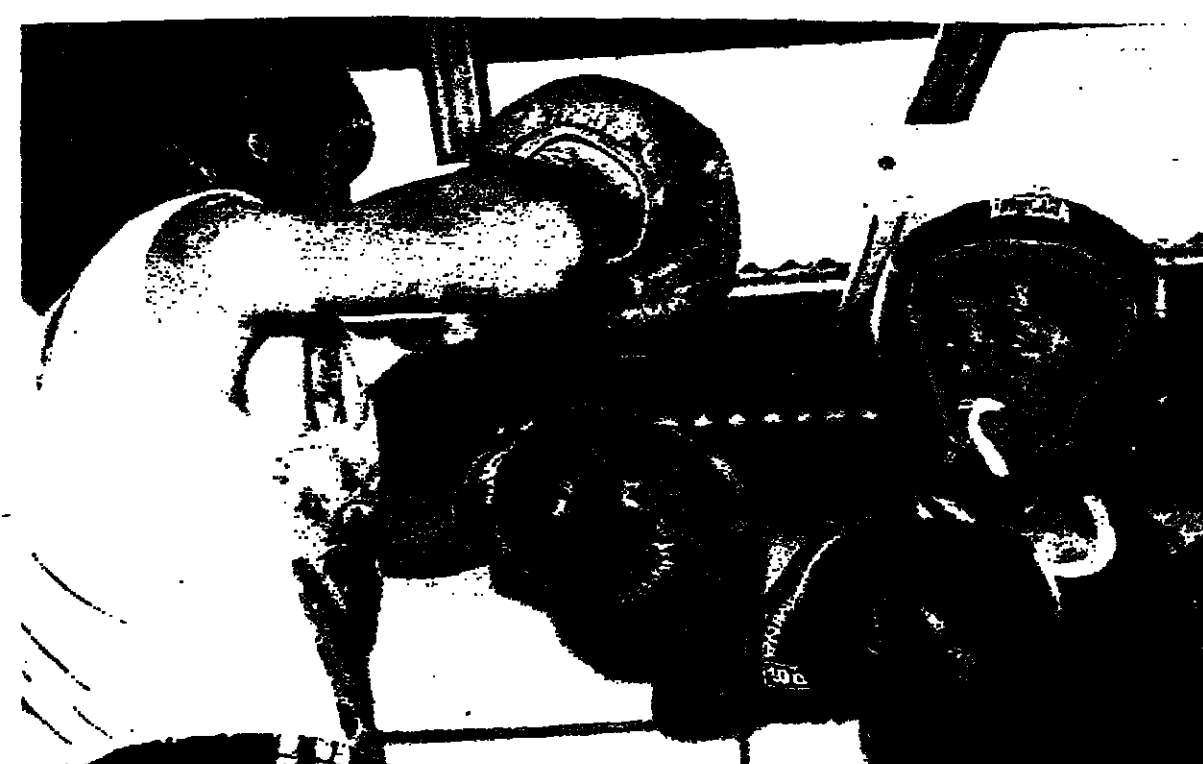
The above two teams will meet once again in the final to be played on Friday, October 4. The match will be of 40 overs and will start sharp at 9.00 a.m.



TEHRAN: IICC team members at Azadi Sports Complex Sep.20. Standing row (from left to right) Simar, Omarjit, Mukesh, Juggoo, Manpreet, Gurcharan, Difu and Yogeshwar. Front row (also from left to right) Vikas, Mitty, Honey, Sunny, Monty and Jyoti. Juggoo is a member of the Iranian Cricket Council as well as team's captain. Honey's duty as vice-captain is of great asset for the IICC.

IRAN NEWS

SPORTS



QUITO, ECUADOR: Ten-year-old Carlos Hernandez (R) loses his mouth guard after being hit by his opponent September 21, during a championship fight in the Children's Boxing League in Quito, Ecuador. More than 50 children between 10 and 15 compete in the special league in the hopes of becoming a local champion in the near future.

(AFP Photo)

Cowboys 23, Eagles 19

PHILADELPHIA (AP) - The Dallas Cowboys live.

Lifted from their lethargy by Herschel Walker's kickoff return, the Cowboys beat the Philadelphia eagles 23-19 Monday night to restore their credibility and avoid the low slot in the NFC East.

It was a performance by Dallas' prime timers - Troy Aikman, Deion Sanders, Emmitt Smith and Walker, who had a 49-yard return after the Cowboys had fallen behind 10-0 on Philadelphia's first two possessions, that ignited a run of 20 straight points in a 16-minute span of the first half, highlighted by a brilliantly executed 96-yard touchdown drive.

The Cowboys' defense, led by Sanders and Leon Lett, had six sacks and forced five turnovers.

Three of the turnovers set up field goals by Chris Boniol, including an interception by Sanders, whose 39-yard reception was the game's key offensive play. The fourth was George Teague's interception that stopped Philadelphia's final drive at the Dallas 30 with two minutes left.

The win put Dallas (2-3) a game behind Philadelphia (3-2) and two behind Washington. And the Cowboys get another prime timer, Michael Irvin, back for their next game, at home to Arizona on Oct. 13.

The Eagles, meanwhile, will be without their quarterback, Rodney Peete, for the rest of the season. Peete tore the patellar tendon in his right knee when he slipped dropping back to pass with 1:50 left in the half.

How big was this win for Dallas?

The Cowboys, who fell behind 10-0 on the Eagles' first two possessions, would have been three games behind the Eagles and Redskins had they lost. Moreover,

they came into the game doubting themselves - they had just one offensive touchdown in their last six quarters.

But the return by Walker, who returned to Dallas for the minimum salary after he was released by the New York Giants, seemed to provide a spark that had been lacking.

The Eagles took a 3-0 lead on Gary Anderson's 36-yard field goal, then followed that with a 65-

... **Herschel Walker wearing a wrong uniform, but that was last year...**

Photo by Jeff Fishbein



China Sweeps 21 of 26 Golds at Asian Gymnastics Championships

BEIJING (AP) - Confirming its position as Asia's gymnastics powerhouse, China swept 21 of 26 gold medals at the first Asian Gymnastic and Rhythmic Gymnastic Championships, an official report said Monday.

China took 15 of the 20 titles decided Sunday, the last day of the three-day competition in Changsha, Central China, the Xinhua News Agency said. It also won seven silvers and eight bronzes that day.

North Korea, Taiwan, Japan, South Korea and Kazakhstan also won golds, Xinhua added.

VOL. III, No. 567 TEHRAN Price 200 Rials

Wednesday October 2, 1996, Mehr 11, 1375, Jamadi 1 18, 1417

Newcastle Grabs Second Spot in Premiership

NEWCASTLE, ENGLAND (AFP) - Newcastle shot to second spot in the Premiership after a 4-3 win over 10-man Aston Villa here on Monday in surely the most exciting match of the season so far.

A Dwight Yorke hat-trick for Villa in his first goals of the season could not prevent Newcastle climbing to just below pacesetters Liverpool.

Les Ferdinand hit two, Alan Shearer scored another, and center back Steve Howey sealed the win for Newcastle.

However on a sour note, Mark Draper was sent off in the 43rd minute for his second bookable offense.

Yorke, not the tallest of players, beat out keeper Pavel Srnicek for the ball to head home and give Villa a shock fourth minute lead.

The St. James's Park crowd were shocked into stunned silence, but just moments later the atmosphere changed completely as the home side struck back.

David Ginola fed Alan Shearer, who controlled the ball, swiveled, turned and crossed in one movement to Les Ferdinand who slid the ball home at the far post.

Dwight Yorke hit the foot of righthand post in 13th minute with Srnicek well beaten to concede Villa's superb opening spell. But Ferdinand found the net once more to give Newcastle the lead against the run of play.

Keith Gillespie hit a superb cross from the right and Ferdinand, at full speed, headed accurately for his second goal of the night on 22 minutes.

Of course, Ferdinand was involved in Newcastle's third goal. Ferdinand headed the ball in the 38th minute to Shearer with his back to goal on the six yard box.

Shearer hit the ball back to Ferdinand whose effort was saved by Yorke on the line. But Shearer made no mistake from the rebound to put his side 3-1 ahead.

Moments before, only a brilliant save to his left by keeper Michael Oakes denied Shearer a goal.

Then, just two minutes before half-time, Villa were down to 10 men when draper made a vicious tackle on John Beresford and was immediately sent off.

Within seconds of the restart, a Ferdinand effort brought a great one-handed save from Oakes.

Then Yorke hit his second goal of the season to give Villa a glimmer of hope. His superb solo goal as he got the better of Peacock in the 61st minute meant he was the second player of the night to be on a hat-trick.

Howie gave the Geordies breathing space with a superb header from 15 yards out for a 4-2 lead, but then Yorke converted his hat-trick to add another twist in the tale of a topsy turvy match.

IMF-World Bank Launch Deb

IRAN
BUSINESS NEWS

Clinton Signs Budget Package for New Fiscal Year

WASHINGTON (AFP) - President Bill Clinton on Monday night signed a spending package for the new fiscal year that begins October 1, along with a series of measures to stop illegal immigration.

"This bill is good for America, and I am pleased to sign it," Clinton said in a communique.

The U.S. Senate sent Clinton the spending package after approving it Monday night by an 84-15 vote that effectively ended the last major legislative concerns before the November 5 election.

The U.S. House of Representatives adopted the same package on Saturday night 370-37.

Clinton had said he would sign the package that includes funding for several departments including defense and education, as well as

dollars for the deployment of U.S. troops in Saudi Arabia, and relief for victims of this summer's hurricane Fran.

And \$1.1 billion is earmarked for anti-terrorist spending requested by Clinton in the wake of the July 17 crash of TWA flight 800 that killed all 230 people aboard and remains unsolved.

Without a budget accord, the government would have been forced to temporarily shut down non-essential departments and agencies. That was the case on two occasions last winter.

These partial government shutdowns - one of them three weeks long - helped turn public opinion against Republicans in Congress. Polls showed that voters blamed the closings on their uncompromising stances.

Malaysia Rules Out Lowering Ringgit to Boost Exports



MAHATHIR MOHAMAD

KUALA LUMPUR (AFP) - Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad Tuesday ruled out devaluing the ringgit to boost the country's exports as a way to rectify the country's weak trade balance.

"We don't see the need to set a level for the ringgit," Mahathir told reporters after opening a national energy conference.

He was asked whether Malaysia would favor a lower currency to address its weak balance of trade that was weighing down on its current account.

"We don't like manipulation of currency to the point where we

lose control," said Mahathir.

The prime minister said his remark in New York last week that favored "a more competitive ringgit" had been misinterpreted to mean he wanted a lower ringgit.

"We will not tolerate the manipulation of the ringgit just to make money," said Mahathir, adding that the competitiveness of the ringgit, however, would need to be maintained.

Mahathir said the country's national savings rate was still healthy.

Malaysia needed to reduce imports and increase its exports to improve its balance of trade and remain competitive, Mahathir said.

"Our national savings are okay. It is only our exports and imports. We need to export more and to do this, we need to be more competitive," he added.

Malaysia's trade deficit ballooned to 9.2 billion ringgit (\$3.69 billion) last year from 2.2 billion ringgit in 1994, blamed largely on high imports of bulky equipment to fuel Malaysia's growth.

Economic growth has averaged more than eight percent a year since 1987.

Currency dealers said Mahathir's remarks boosted the ringgit by 30 basis points in early Tuesday trade.

IMF-World Bank Body Launch Debt Plan

WASHINGTON (AFP) - A joint IMF-World Bank committee formally launched a debt-relief scheme here Monday, raising the possibility that some of the world's poorest nations could benefit from the plan by year's end.

World Bank President James Wolfensohn told a news conference the plan presents a chance for countries struggling with unsustainable debt overhang to halt repetitive debt reschedulings and "stand on their own feet."

The 24-member development committee backed the bank's proposed \$500 million initial contribution to the plan, which also drew support from the group of seven leading industrial countries, bilateral creditors in the Paris Club and the International Monetary Fund's policy-making body.

In a statement, ministers of rich and poor countries noted Wolfensohn's plan to recommend

further contributions, which he said would depend on the bank's "future net income (and) equitable burden-sharing by creditors."

Wolfensohn has raised the possibility of bringing the bank's overall contribution to some two billion dollars.

He told the committee it would be extremely important that "all creditors" - multilateral and bilateral included - "be willing to bear a fair and proportionate share of the burden" of this initiative.

He called the Paris Club's Saturday announcement that it is ready to provide debt reduction of up to 80 percent a "breakthrough," which "will allow us to start implementation of this initiative right away."

According to Wolfensohn, the decision was "absolutely key" because "the Paris Club and other creditors who match the Paris Club terms hold over three-quarters of the debt."

Spain Hopes Austere Budget Will Secure EMU Goal

MADRID (Reuters) - Spanish Economy Minister Rodrigo Rato on Monday delivered to parliament an austere budget which the conservative government hopes will place Spain among the first group of countries to join a European single currency.

The 54-volume draft, whose broad contents were unveiled on Friday, is certain to be passed despite drawing sharp criticism from the leftist opposition at the weekend.

The minority Popular Party (PP) has already secured the backing of its Catalan Nationalist allies in parliament, ensuring the budget will be voted through.

Prime Minister Jose Maria Aznar reaffirmed his country's commitment to being among the first wave of single currency nations, a key platform of his campaign in the general election he won in March.

"We will be there," Aznar told the Financial Times in an interview published on Monday. "I am ready to take whatever measures are necessary to succeed, because I am absolutely persuaded that Spain is staking its stability and prosperity in this bet."

The 1997 budget package slashes total spending to just 1.7 percent by cutting or freezing spending in all sectors except for pensions, health and regional transfers.

With inflation expected to grow 2.6 percent next year, this



AZNAR

makes it the most restrictive budget since Spain's return to democracy in 1975.

The budget deficit is forecast to drop to three percent of gross domestic product next year, the level required to join a European Economic and Monetary Union (EMU) in 1999.

Nevertheless, the government forecasts a healthy 3.0 percent growth in 1997 and foresees the creation of 200,000 jobs.

"The budget will put the Spanish economy on the European horizon in the way Spaniards desire - with reasonable efforts directed especially to the public sector," Rato said at a press conference following the official presentation.

Market reaction was sanguine, with analysts saying Monday's detailed budget figures offered few surprises and paved the way

for the Bank of Spain to cut its key money market rate - the rate at which it lends to banks - from 7.25 percent.

Traders have already discounted a cut of between 25 and 50 basis points at the central bank's regular auction on Thursday.

"By helping achieve economic stability, this budget raises the degree of confidence in the Spanish economy from the point of view of its citizens as well as from the perspective of international markets," Rato said.

But unions and left-wing parties attacked the plan, saying that despite its lofty goals it lacks credibility and places the burden of budget adjustment on the poorest sectors of society.

Unions on Monday launched the first in a series of protests against a public sector wage freeze, claiming it will cut 1997 forecast growth by 0.7 percent and create 100,000 fewer jobs.

"We hope that from now until December, this government changes its attitude, because if it doesn't the unions will consider stronger pressure methods," said Enrique Alonso of the Confederation of Independent and Public Sector unions.

Syndicates are planning a second protest on October 15 which could herald a prolonged period of confrontation between workers and the government, which insists the decision is irreversible.

Ruggiero Wants Trade Help for Developing Countries

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - World Trade Organization (WTO) Head Renato Ruggiero said on Monday he would like to see a ministerial trade meeting in Singapore in December take action to help the world's poorest countries.

This would include eliminating all tariffs and non-tariff barriers on least-developed country exports, and improving the investment climate they face.

"I see a commitment to action along these lines as a very important objective for Singapore," he told ministers at the annual meeting of the International Monetary Fund and World Bank.

The WTO is pushing for a trade initiative to accompany a debt relief initiative agreed to this weekend by the IMF and World Bank to help the world's poorest nations.

Ruggiero, however, played down the possibility of dramatic decisions in Singapore, the first ministerial meeting of the Geneva-based trade watchdog, which replaced the GATT after Uruguay Round negotiations to liberalize world trade.

The meeting, he said, "is not the end of a negotiation, nor the launching of a new round, but a very important point in a continuing process."

He acknowledged the difficulties of agreeing on new rules to liberalize investment - which would lift barriers preventing foreign companies investing in some countries.

"The treatment of investment in the multilateral system is still a difficult issue in Geneva, but there seems to be a broad level of agreement that further work is needed - if not on where it should

take place," he said.

The most difficult issue, he said, was over labor standards -

which prohibit forced labor by prisoners, child labor and promote free association of workers.

Ruggiero noted that all countries backed respect for core labor standards and that the competitive advantage of low-wage countries had not been called into question.

"I do not pretend that even on the basis of these elements, it will be easy to reach a consensus on this issue, but it is vital that it not

Mercedes Workers Lay Down Tools to Protest Sick Pay Cuts

BONN, GERMANY (AP) - About 5,200 Mercedes-Benz employees refused to work Monday in a worsening labor dispute over cuts in sick pay for all Germans.

Daimler-Benz, Germany's largest industrial conglomerate with 220,000 workers, and a host of other major firms last week announced they were reducing sick pay from 100 percent to 80 percent as of Tuesday.

On Sept. 13, parliament passed an austerity program which lets German companies slice sickness benefits by that amount. But union leaders say companies cannot legally implement the legislation without negotiating new contracts.

Unions have threatened a "hot autumn" of protests over the issue, and unrest has already begun.

On Saturday, about 23,000 employees refused to work at Daimler-Benz' most profitable subsidiary, luxury carmaker Mercedes-Benz. As a consequence,



RUGGIERO

become a divisive or disruptive point at Singapore," he said.

950 Mercedes cars did not make it off the assembly line over the weekend.

The Mercedes walkouts continued Monday, with about 4,000 workers on the early shift refusing to work at a Bremen plant and 1,200 at a plant in Duesseldorf. The Bremen workers have been staging temporary work stoppages since Wednesday.

The Daimler works council has called on all 220,000 company employees to lay down their tools on Tuesday. Temporary walkouts are also planned that day at Opel and Ford car plants.

German workers are out sick an average of 20 working days a year, one of the highest rates of absenteeism in the world.

German companies and Chancellor Helmut Kohl's government say playing hooky is hurting Germany's ability to compete in the global market.

Economic Digest

KUWAIT - The state-owned Kuwait National Petroleum Co. made a record net profit of \$1.9 million dinars (\$273 million) in fiscal 1995-96, compared to 173,000 dinars (\$576,000) a year earlier.

Ahmed Al-Mutairi, KNPC's managing director, told the Kuwait News Agency Saturday the gains were mainly due to the implementation of a processing agreement signed with the mother company, Kuwait Petroleum Corp., which allows KNPC to buy crude from it and sell products at international market prices.

He said KNPC made 40.71 million dinars (\$135.7 million) of these profits from gas liquefaction, 32.71 million dinars (\$109.03 million) from its three oil refineries, in addition to 8.47 million dinars (\$28.23 million) from other operations.

The company owns and runs gasoline stations in Kuwait.

RIYADH - Saudi Arabia's largest advertising and public relations company Tihama has posted losses of about 20 million Saudi riyals (\$5.3 million) for the fiscal year ending March 1996, the company's annual report said Sunday.

Tihama, Saudi Arabia's first publicly traded media company, has seen its profits slide from 20.5 million riyals in 1993 (\$5.5 million) to under 5 million riyals (1.3 million) last year.

Dividends earned by shareholders went down from 6.49 riyals (\$1.73) in 1993 to 3 riyals (\$0.8) in 1995.

Tihama's major shareholders are Saudi media magnate Saleh Kamel, with a majority stake, and Prince Khaled bin Sultan, owner of the Arabic daily Al Hayat with 15 percent.

RIYADH - The Arab Investment Company's profits for the year ending August 1996 rose to over \$19 million from \$14.2 million for the same period last year, the company announced Sunday.

The Riyadh-based company is planning to invest in privatization projects in Egypt and is looking into Algeria's request to become a member.

The AIC, owned by 15 Arab countries, was founded in 1974 with a \$300 million capital, for the purpose of developing the economies of member nations.

AIC is currently funding 33 projects in different Arab countries and has offices in Egypt, Tunisia and Jordan.

AMMAN - An American business center was inaugurated Sunday as part of efforts to boost business ties between the United States and the kingdom.

The center which is located at the U.S. Embassy premises will offer a variety of business services to Jordanian businessmen interested in establishing contacts with American firms.

It will also assist U.S. businesses in trade investment and marketing activities in Jordan.

JIDDAH - American oil company Chevron and Saudi industrial venture capital group are setting up a 2.4 billion riyal (\$653,000 million) petrochemical plant in the industrial city of Jubail, the Saudi Press Agency reported Sunday.

Both companies will equally own the joint venture - Saudi Chevron Petrochemical - which will produce 700,000 tons of petrochemicals annually, SPA reported.

Today in History

1924 - League of Nations adopts Geneva protocol for peaceful settlement of international disputes.

1932 - Lytton report on Manchuria to League of Nations recognizes Japan's special interests and recommends autonomous state under Chinese sovereignty but Japanese control.

1934 - Royal Indian Navy is formed.

1940 - H.M.S. Empress of Britain, carrying child war refugees to Canada, is sunk during World War II.

1952 - Chinese government holds "Asia and Pacific area" peace conference in Peking.

1974 - China, in United Nations, hails Arab use of oil as weapon, with minister saying it will help Third World struggle against imperialism.

1977 - Israel rejects joint U.S.-Soviet declaration on aims of proposed Middle East peace conference.

1984 - Indian authorities tighten security to thwart attempts by Sikh separatists to invade Golden Temple in Sikh holy city of Amritsar.

1988 - Pakistan's supreme court orders that planned elections in November be open to all political parties.

1990 - Western allies cede their rights occupation powers in Germany.

1991 - Haiti's military chief advises ousted President Jean Bertrand Aristide to remain in exile.

1992 - The Sultan of Brunei, said to be the richest man in the world, celebrates 25 years on the throne.

Australian Suicide Man Was "Fully Aware" of Action

SYDNEY (Reuters) - The dying cancer patient who became the first person to take his life under Australia's landmark voluntary euthanasia law knew exactly what he was doing, the psychiatrist who approved his death said on Thursday (Sept. 26).

Sydney Psychiatrist John Ellard, who traveled to the remote northern city of Darwin to sanction the man's death, said he had not hesitated in signing the necessary documents.

"Dr (Philip) Nitschke, the patient's general practitioner, asked me to go to Darwin to examine his patient," Ellard said in a statement released in Sydney. "I found an intelligent and sensitive man, fully aware of all the issues concerning him and his illness."

"I had no hesitation in signing the necessary documents under the relevant act."

The man, named by Australian media as Bob Dent, died last Sunday using a computer suicide program developed by euthanasia campaigner Nitschke to administer lethal drugs.

A previous attempt by Nitschke to help a terminally ill patient commit suicide was foiled because the man could not persuade both a medical specialist and a psychiatrist to approve his death.

Take Hypertension Medicine Whether or Not You Feel Like It

BY DR. ALLAN BRUCKHEIM

QUESTION: My doctor discovered I have high blood pressure when I saw him a few months ago for feelings of fatigue and lethargy. The medication he prescribed has done wonders for me, but now that I am feeling better, I want to stop these daily pills and he won't let me. I respect his opinion, but now I want yours. Will you oblige me, please?

ANSWER: It can be hard to understand why you have to take medicine when you don't feel sick, but your doctor is right. Most people who need medication to control their high blood pressure will have to take it indefinitely.

Your symptoms are not a reliable

guide to your blood pressure. Under the northern territory law, the psychiatrist can come from another state and Nitschke asked Ellard, a leading psychiatrist who edits the journal Modern Medicine of Australia, to travel to Darwin to meet Dent.

In fact, one of the biggest problems with hypertension is that most people don't have any symptoms at all, especially in the early stages of the disease. That's why hypertension is called the silent killer. It is possible that you had elevated blood pressure for some time before you started having symptoms.

Even if you feel normal, untreated hypertension puts a strain on your heart, blood vessels, brain and kidneys. The heart has to work harder to pump blood against abnormally high blood pressure. This overwork can make the heart's walls thicken, and the heart itself can become enlarged.

See Page 13

CORNUCOPIA

JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

UNGLE

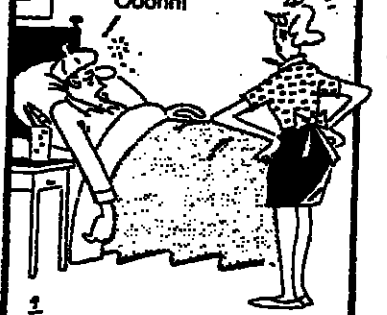
YEAP

LACCIO

FLOUND

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

by Henri Arnold and Mike Argillon



A LONG NIGHT AT THE PUB CAN LEAVE YOU

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print answer here: -

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: TONIC CATCH DAMPEN AUTUMN
Answer: What the military prisoners considered their bonds - THE CHAIN OF COMMAND

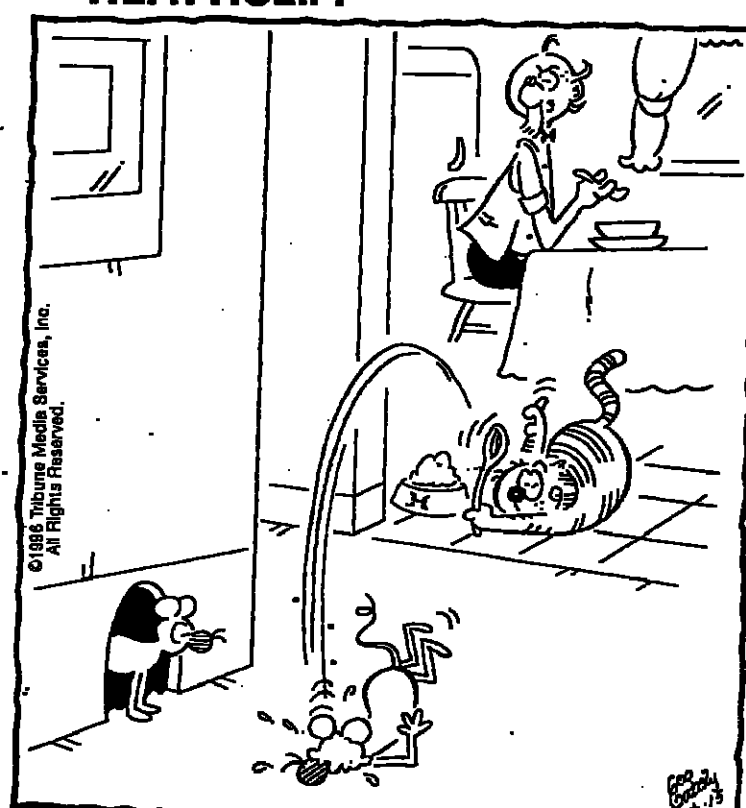
Centranthus Ruber (L.) D.C.

Family: Valerianaceae
Modern Greek Name: Analatos



Centranthus are annual or perennial plants very similar to valerians. Flowers small in rather dense clusters. Corolla tubular, five-lobed with a small in rather dense clusters. Corolla tubular, five-lobed with a small or big spur at its base. The species illustrated is a perennial plant which favors dry, rocky localities of the mountain and semi-mountain zone. It produces rather numerous branches up to 1m. high, bearing plenty of red-flowered clusters. When in bloom it is a most ornamental plant. Flowers April-June. Ubiquitous in Greece.

HEATHCLIFF



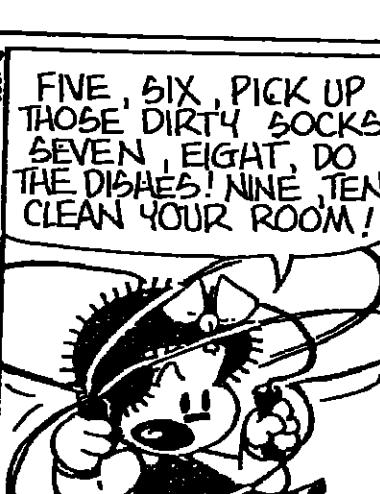
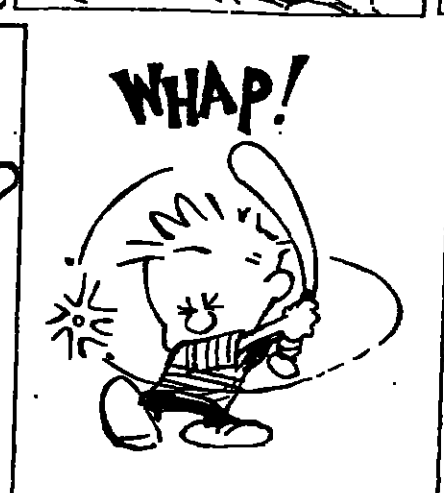
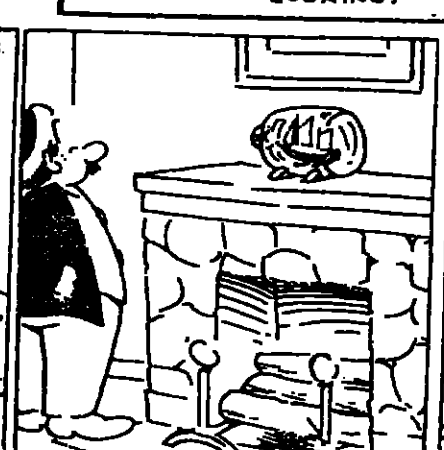
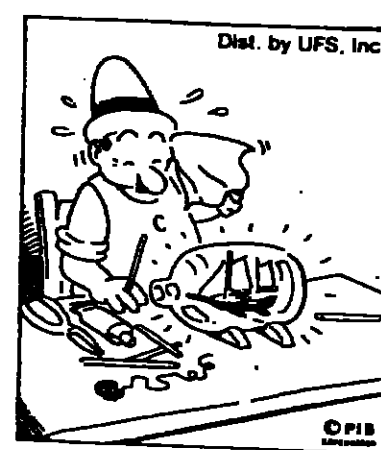
"STOP PLAYING WITH YOUR FOOD!"

THE HUNCHBACK OF NOTRE-DAME

by Michel A. Petti



Dennis the menace



مكتبة الأمل

IRAN

FEATURE NEWS

Study Finds Estrogen May Protect Bones

SAN FRANCISCO (Reuters) -- Older women treated with estrogen appear to have a lower risk of developing a common arthritis that is the leading cause of hip replacement surgeries in the United States, a report said on Sunday.

Women who were current users of oral estrogens had a 38 percent lower risk of any osteoarthritis of the hip compared to women who never used estrogen, doctors at the University of California in San Francisco said.

The findings were based on a study of 4,366 white women aged 65 and over from four areas of the United States -- Baltimore, Minneapolis, Portland, Oregon, and Pennsylvania's Monongahela

Valley.

The report, published in the Archives of Internal Medicine, was released by the American Medical Association at the group's annual briefing for science writers.

The researchers said black women were excluded from the study because they have a low incidence of hip fractures. They also said the hormone's protective effect was somewhat greater among women who had been taking it for at least 10 years.

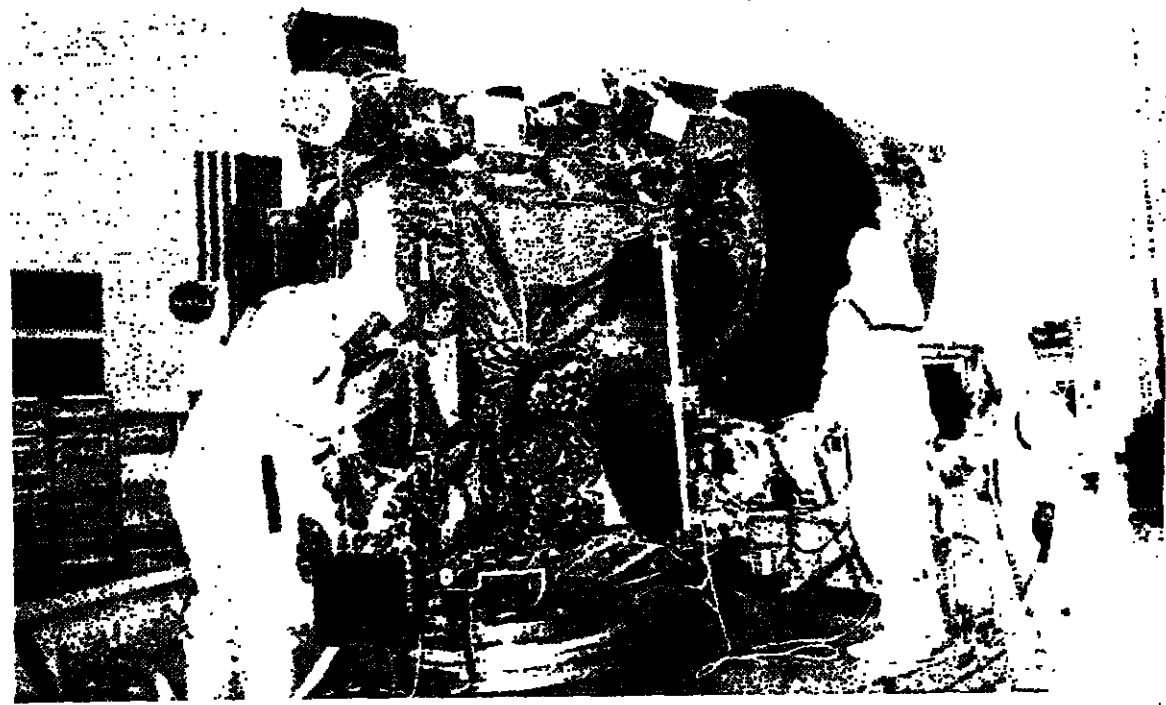
Osteoarthritis is a cartilage disease caused mainly by wear and tear on the joint. Virtually everyone over the age of 75 develops the painful condition, according to the American College of Rheuma-

tology, and osteoarthritis accounts for 70 percent of the more than 200,000 hip and knee replacements done in the United States each year.

Women produce less estrogen as they age and synthetic versions of the hormone are sometimes used to treat the effects of menopause.

The report said estrogen may slow changes in the bone beneath the cartilage and may affect the production of enzymes that break down cartilage.

"Our findings suggest that estrogen replacement therapy may protect against the development or progression" of the disease, the report concluded.



KENNEDY SPACE CENTER, FLORIDA, UNITED STATES: Technicians work on the Mars Global Surveyor spacecraft September 27 in the Payload Hazardous Servicing Facility (PHSF) at Kennedy Space Center, Florida. The spacecraft is being prepared for a November 6 launch on a ten month journey to Mars where it will orbit the planet while conducting optical scientific studies.

(AFP Photo)

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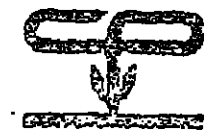
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Trade and Economic Relations with Islamic Republic of Iran

The Islamic Republic of Iran belongs in the past as well as today to the traditional trade partners of the Czech Republic (or former Czechoslovakia). The diplomatic ties between both countries were established already in 1925. The mutual trade relations were developed on the base of trade, Customs and Payment agreement of 1929. After the split of former Czechoslovakia into two independent states, i.e. the Czech Republic and the Slovak Republic, from January 1, 1993, there comes to the necessity to up-to-date the contracting relations. The new Trade Agreement between the Government of the Czech Republic and the government of the Islamic Republic of Iran was signed during the visit of Minister of Industry and Trade of the Czech Republic to Iran in October 2, 1993. It is the basic Agreement of common type according to the GATT principles, by which the non-problem flow of the goods between both countries is secured, establishment of the Joint Trade Committee, granting of the Most Favoured Nation Treatment and securing of payment in freely convertible currencies. On November 28, 1995 the Agreement came into the force. The signed agreement constitutes the very good challenge for entrepreneurs on both

sides. Czechoslovakia and successive the Czech Republic takes part in renewal of economy of Iran with the deliveries of machinery production particularly. In Tehran the trolleybus line with 65 Czech trolley-buses is working, whose first line started the operation in autumn 1992. The Czech companies are also realizing construction of alumina plant in Jajarm amounting to 275 mill. USD. The shipments of equipment for reconstruction and extension of some factories constructed in the past by Czech firms are materialized, the participation of the Czech companies is under negotiations of important Iranian development projects.

In May 1994 the first Session of Czech-Iranian Joint trade Committee, based on article 9 of New Trade agreement, took place. The questions concerning further trade exchange were discussed during the negotiation.

The Czech Republic takes part with its official participation in International Fair in Tehran for several years. Company KAVALLER - GLASSEXPRESS and SKODA Plzen will exhibit their production on this fair in this year.

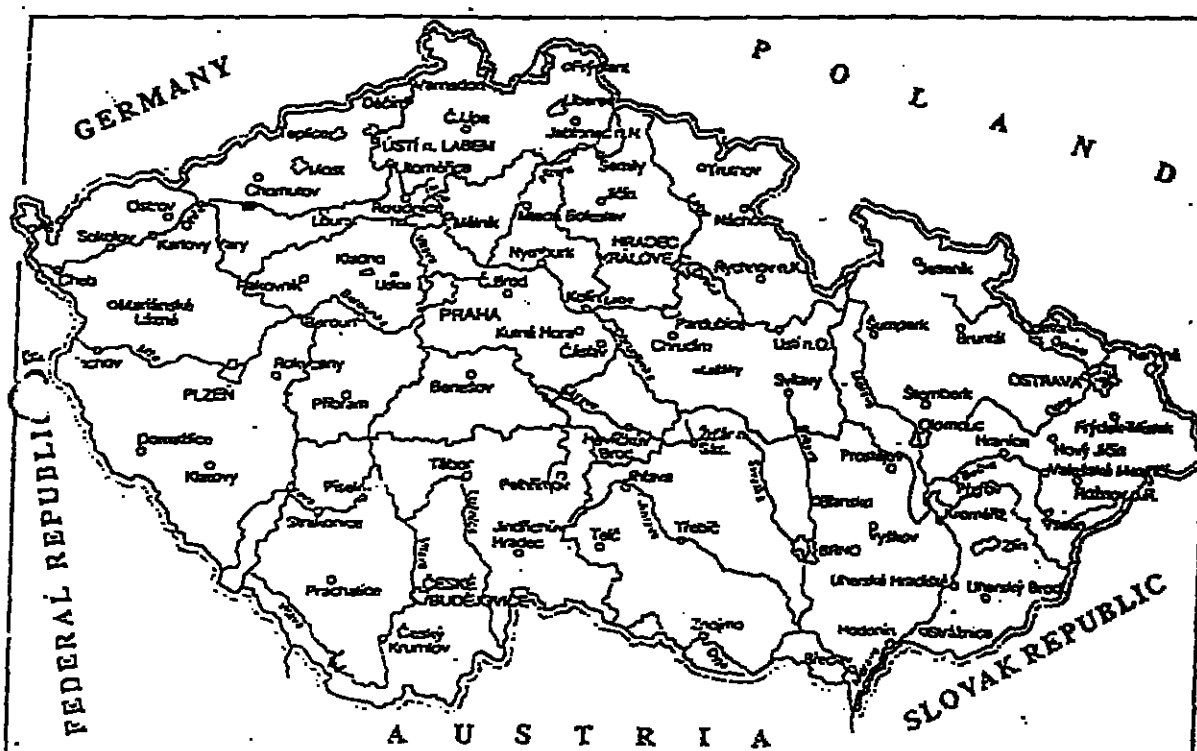
The development of the mutual trade for the last 6 years shows the following chart (in mill. USD):

	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996/1-6
Czechexport	67,9	79,1	54,6	44,2	58,8	45,8
Czech import	7,1	1,5	3,7	5,3	7,6	29,9
Cz. turnover	125,0	80,6	58,3	49,5	66,4	75,7
Cz. balance	+10,8	+77,6	+50,9	+38,9	+51,2	+15,9



Surprise, surprise: Wonderfully appealing Prague is not yet perfect - but it's getting there.

THE CZECH REPUBLIC



Prosperity Woes: Too Much of a Good Thing

In several key ways, the Czech Republic's economy is an exception in Europe. In many of the continent's economies, gaping public sector deficits have become the norm - and reducing them has become the object of frenzied, frustrating efforts. In 1995, for the third successive year, the Czech government spent less than it took in tax revenues. This surplus was caused by a mix of no-frills budgeting - a hallmark of Prime Minister Vaclav Klaus's regime, now in its fourth year - and by the strong economic growth it helped produce.

Bearable tax loads

The Czech Republic's gross domestic product grew at a five percent rate in 1995, a figure well beyond the reach of nearly all countries in Western Europe. A major factor contributing to this growth, forecast to amount to a surging six percent in 1996, has been the country's bearable tax loads.

As West European countries struggle to reduce their cumulative tax levels to less than 40 percent of total individual income, the Czechs have maintained a 26 percent rate - on par with that of Japan and the United States. The Czech Republic's three years of economic growth have had a major and positive impact on its 5.2 million gainfully employed citizens and the 1.3 million companies and professional firms producing the growth. The country's average household consumption rose by six percent in 1995. Gross capital formation far outpaced that, rising at a 15 percent rate.

International confidence

In addition to tight budgeting, the government has engendered this growth by steadily formulating and implementing "open market" policies, winning the confidence of international investors and rating agencies in the process.

Today, after four years of step-by-step deregulation, the Czech crown is completely convertible for all intents and purposes. Wages have been freed from the past's constraining schedules. Lo-

cally based companies are free to maintain accounts and to operate in the major currency of their choice. Foreigners have unimpeded access to all Czech assets, with the partial exception of land ownership - always a sensitive issue in any small European country.

Thanks to these policies and the economic track record of its companies, the Czech Republic was the first of the Central and East European (CEE) countries to be granted admission to the Organization of Economic Cooperation and Development, and the first to receive a grade A rating from Standard & Poor's.

These moves further bolstered investor confidence in the Czech Republic - with highly visible results. The \$2.56 billion in foreign direct investment recorded in 1995 was up 200 percent over the previous year's total and represented an all-time high for the country. Over the past three years, the country has secured \$5.8 billion in investment, the second best figure in the entire CEE region.

Even the Czech Republic's problems and shortcomings are very easy to understand. In 1995, the country found itself with a prosperity-caused trade deficit, which is now moderating. This \$3.8 billion deficit was more than counterbalanced by the \$2.3 billion and \$3.5 billion surpluses in the country's invisible and long-term capital accounts.

In line with its "anti-Keynesian" approach, the Klaus government has refrained from making large-scale investments to alleviate the country's widespread environmental and infrastructural problems. The government's reliance on private sector initiatives to do so seems to be paying off.

Success stories

With industrial output up 10 percent in 1995, many of the country's prospering manufacturers are investing a portion of their increasing revenues in installing environmental protection systems and remedying environmental damage. One example is Kaucuk, a.s., the country's 10th largest manufacturer and one of

the most successful of the country's restructured industrial companies.

Located to the north of Prague, Kaucuk recorded significant rises in turnover and profit in 1995. Turnover increased by 10 percent, to 16.86 billion koruny (\$610 million). Some 65 percent of its increasing sales are recorded abroad, with the company's newly developed styrene plastics and butadiene elastomers proving highly popular with international plastics producers.

While increasing its sales and output, Kaucuk has been slashing its consumption of natural re-

sources and amounts of emissions over the past five years. In one of many examples, the pumping of hydrocarbons into the external environment has been cut by 97 percent. To achieve these improvements, Kaucuk has increased its annual investments in environmental protection tenfold.

The Klaus government recently announced the launching of billion-dollar rail and road system improvement and expansion programs. Characteristically, these programs are built around financing and expertise supplied by the private sector.

Industry on the Rebound

For all its beauty, the Czech Republic has always been an industrial country.

Inevitably, Czeches will point out that during the glory days of the First Republic (1918-1938), they had the world's 10th largest industrial base. But the intervening half century was anything but glorious. For 40 years, under Communist rule, Czech industry was isolated from market forces and produced mainly for the Eastern bloc, to meet quotas established by central planners. What they produced was not shoddy - the Czeches' deep-rooted industrial tradition prevented this - but there was little to stimulate technical innovation. As a result, Czech industry became bloated and inefficient. Since 1989, Czech industry has struggled to regain its competitive edge. The going has been rough, but today some Czech companies are beginning to find some measure of success.

Industrial giant

If there is a single Czech company that exemplifies the country's thoroughly industrial nature, it is the engineering giant Skoda Concern of Plzen. Skoda produces everything from turbines, locomotives and nuclear power plants

to gear boxes and trolley buses.

And no man better exemplifies this industrial heavy-hitter than its chief executive, general director and 20 percent owner, Lubomir Soudek. If Prime Minister Vaclav Klaus is the engineer of the Czech economic transformation, Skoda and Mr. Soudek are surely the engine.

By late 1992, Skoda was at the bottom of its fortunes. Its markets had vanished, and the company was mired in debt and unable to meet operating costs. The board of directors had all resigned after the government refused their request for a bailout.

When the government offered a 34 percent stake in the company to anyone who could provide the best recovery package, Mr. Soudek stepped in. Working in partnership with two Czech banks, he presented an ambitious plan that involved debt-for-equity swaps, restructured loans and cash advances for wages.

Mr. Soudek talked the government into canceling Skoda's debts to the state banks; at the same time, he got them to cover an almost equal debt for locomotives that the state railway had ordered but could not pay for.

Handwritten text in Arabic script at the bottom of the page.

IRAN
POLITICAL NEWS



NEW YORK, NY, U.S.A.: Palestinians and supporters protest against recent violence in the occupied territories September 30 across the street from the Israeli Consulate in New York. (AFP Photo)

Netanyahu Must Satisfy Rightwing Coalition, But Keep Peace Alive

JERUSALEM (AFP) - Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu faces a dual challenge at the summit in Washington on Tuesday: satisfying his rightwing coalition while keeping the peace process alive to quell further Palestinian unrest which could bring down his government.

Netanyahu already faces a no-

violence was backed up by an opinion survey showing that 70 percent of Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza are ready to fight again if the Washington summit fails to produce concrete results.

Last week's unprecedented clashes killed 67 Palestinians and 15 Israeli soldiers and sparked the US-sponsored Middle East peace summit on Tuesday and Wednesday.

Adding to the pressure on Netanyahu was a poll released Tuesday showing that 79.5 percent of Israelis support the continued implementation of the Palestinian peace accords while 57 percent disapprove of the prime minister's performance.

But Netanyahu must also meet the demands of his rightwing and ultra-nationalist partners who dominate the governing 65-member coalition in the 120-seat Knesset.

They have fervently opposed the peace process with the Palestinians and successfully pushed for an expansion of Jewish settlements in the occupied territories and the opening of an archaeological tunnel near Muslim holy sites in Jerusalem, which provoked the Palestinian rioting.

"Only creative diplomacy touched virtually by divine intervention will allow Netanyahu to leave Washington healthy and whole," Commentator Hemi Shalev said in the Ma'ariv newspaper.

Shalev said Netanyahu will have to "come away not being accused of detonating the summit on the one hand, and on the other hand without having to agree to concessions which will undermine his basis of support in the country."

Meanwhile, the Labor Party, which signed the Autonomy Accords with the Palestinians while in power, put pressure Tuesday on Netanyahu to make concrete proposals at the emergency summit.

"It is the last chance to save the peace process," Labor Deputy Ephraim Sneh said on Israeli public radio.

"If Netanyahu insists on empty words instead of concrete

proposals in Washington, that would be very serious and could cause the situation in the region to degenerate toward an explosion even more catastrophic than last week's," Sneh warned.

Netanyahu took some steps towards concessions on Monday by calling for intensive non-stop negotiations with the Palestinians af-



NETANYAHU

ter the Washington summit until they reach an agreement.



GAZA, GAZA STRIP: Palestinian police disembark from their 4x4 jeep for a patrol near Gaza September 30, Israel demanded surrender of the force's weapons, following the recent clashes. (AFP Photo)

Juppe Faces Rough Ride as MPs Return

PARIS, FRANCE (AFP) - French Premier Alain Juppe is facing a bumpy return to political reality this week as MPs come back to work amid persistent criticism, economic gloom and the looming threat of disruptive strikes.

After Parliament officially resumed yesterday, he faces a confidence vote in the National Assembly today. Although he will sail through, the problems and criticisms behind it will be harder to deal with.

He will need all his political determination and powers of persuasion to keep his conservative government in line, and to shore up public confidence ahead of general elections due in 1998.

President Jacques Chirac, who has consistently quashed speculation about Juppe's political future, again reaffirmed his support for his prime minister Monday, saying reforms sometimes took longer than people liked.

"The task is immense and the government needs determination and perseverance to see it through. Today it lacks neither one nor the other," he said on a trip to the Pas de Calais region in northern France.

Juppe has called Wednesday's confidence vote, which puts his government's overall policies at stake, precisely to quell the "big mouths" within his ruling majority.

He is assured of victory. His coalition, combining the Gaullist Rally for the Republic (RPR) with the Center-right Union for French

Democracy (UDF), has a crushing parliamentary majority of 480 seats out of 570.

But it will not be so easy. Although on the surface will be supported, the dissensions within the right-wing ranks are far from resolved as Juppe struggles to deal with France's ailing economy.

France's jobless toll remains stubbornly high at more than 3 million or 12.6 percent, while growth remains fragile despite a timid boost in consumption while Juppe was away on holiday in August.

Even tax cuts announced by Juppe on his return to Paris have done little to convince the public, according to recent polls some two thirds disapprove of them in the current social climate.

A plan to create 300,000 jobs over five years by re-allocating funds currently spent on welfare, has also come in for criticism, while budget deficit cutting measures, necessary if France is to join a single European currency on schedule, have also sparked controversy.

Against this background social unrest fomented. The threat of strikes has raised the specter of the nationwide action which virtually paralyzed France for three weeks last Autumn. So far planned action is not yet on that scale.

Teachers struck the first real blow Monday with nationwide action followed by up to three quarters of primary and secondary teachers to protest classroom overcrowding and job-shedding imposed by the conservative gov-



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ernment. Their action is due to be followed on October 17 by another teachers' strike, but this time accompanied by a wider walk-out by public service employees. As if this were not enough to test the unity of Juppe's ruling majority, two other political hot potatoes are also waiting to explode in his face.

One is far-right leader Jean-Marie Le Pen of the National Front, whose comments on racial inequality sparked a public and strongly-worded row between him and Juppe last month.

Unfortunately for Juppe, Le Pen's support is on the rise, sparking fears among Juppe's coalition that its support could suffer if the National Front leader wins the way of words.

Above all the 1998 elections will be on everyone's minds. Plans to reform voting procedure have led to accusations that Juppe is trying to head off a feared right-wing slump by any means possible.

The Mystery Mullah at the Top of the Taliban

KABUL, AFGHANISTAN (AFP) - Taliban supreme Leader Mullah Mohammed Omar has a history of kicking unwanted governments out of Kabul and has steadfastly kept out of the limelight.

There are no known photos of him and he is believed not to have met a foreigner since the creation of his Islamic force barely two years ago.

So little is known about Omar that few outsiders can even say where he stands ideologically in the radical Islamic militia that has already started beating Kabul women considered "improperly dressed" and ordered men to grow beards.

On arriving in Kabul, taken by his militia on Friday, Omar insisted that the Taliban, now called "the Forces of the Islamic State of Afghanistan," will continue the fight "until the complete cleansing of the country of the forces of corruption," Radio Kabul said.

But most Afghan experts still say there is more evidence that he is a moderate locked in a constant battle with ultra conservatives in Taliban councils.

Now aged around 40, Omar has been in the thick of much of the "hell fire of war" that he said, in another statement released at the weekend, the Afghan nation had been made to suffer.

Omar lost an eye in the Muja-

hedeed fight against the Soviet army that occupied the country between 1979 and 1989. But like many other fighters in that bitter conflict, he turned against the resistance groups that later squabbled for power after that victory.

Opposition became focussed on the Islamic students who came out of Quranic schools in south west Afghanistan and Pakistan in 1994 and picked up thousands of willing followers with their plan to end in-fighting and corruption.

Omar emerged as the leader of the Taliban Shooras, or governing council, after its initial gains around the old royal capital of Kandahar, now the main Taliban headquarters.

Despite what appears to be constant splits within the Islamic force, Omar still appears to be a powerful unifying force.

"Omar can assign any job to any Afghan and his orders are not challenged," said Taliban official Mullah Malang.

"If he decides to order a ceasefire his words would immediately reach the frontline and fighting will stop within five minutes," he said.

Despite the fiery image that the Taliban has built up through its treatment of women and promises of severe punishment of criminals, Omar has already made steps to seek international recognition.

The Taliban wants good relations with its neighbors and other nations, Omar said in his radio statement to celebrate the fall of Kabul.

"The Taliban desire good relations with all neighbors and peace-loving governments in the world on the basis of equality and reciprocal respect," Omar said.



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confidence motion in the Israeli parliament, or Knesset, early next week which was brought by the opposition Labor Party after the worst outbreak of Israeli-Palestinian fighting in 30 years.

Labor has been trying to woo the smaller religious Shas Party from Netanyahu's Likud-led coalition in attempt to bring down the government.

But Shas leaders have said they will await the outcome of the peace summit in Washington or if the situation became critical after any further outbreaks of violence in the Palestinian territories.

That's exactly what the Israeli army said it feared on Tuesday if there were no tangible results in the summit in Washington between Netanyahu and Palestinian President Yasser Arafat.

Senior military officials were quoted on army radio as saying that "in case the summit fails, violence will restart in the West Bank and Gaza Strip since Yasser Arafat will conclude that only violence can push forward the political process."

The military's fear of renewed

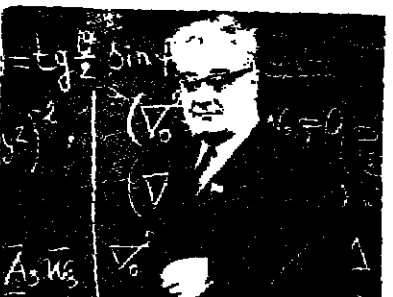
The Georgian People Celebrate the 120th Birthday of Acad. Ivane Javakhishvili, Founder of Tbilisi University, and the 55th Anniversary of the Georgian Academy of Sciences

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Georgian Academy of Sciences



There were two academies in Georgia in 12th c.: Gelati Academy (West Georgian); Iqalto Academy (East Georgian)

In the ranks of academy there are 66 members and 50 corresp. members.

In 1995 the academy investigated 770 topics in limits of 18 programs.

Acad. Nikoloz Muskhelishvili (1891-1976). Eminent mathematician, founder of the Georgian mathematical school, author of the mathematical theory of Elasticity, basic works "Some basic problems of the mathematical theory of Elasticity" and "Singular Integral Equations". member of a number of academies and scientific societies. During 1941-1972 was at the head of academy.

Acad. Ilia Vekua (1907-1977). Well-known mathematician, builder and founder of the Novosibirsk University (Russia), member of a number of academies and scientific societies. During 1972-1977 was at the head of academy.

Acad. Evgeni Kharadze (1907). Builder and founder of the Abastumani Astrophysical Observatory (Georgia), well-known mathematician and astronomer, member of a number of academies and scientific societies. During 1978-1986 was at the head of academy.

Acad. Albert Tavkhelidze (1930). Well-known physicist, author of fundamental works in quantum theory of field and elementary particles, member of a number of academies and scientific societies including Academy of Arts and Sciences (USA). From 1986 is at the head of academy.

There are up to 40 research institutes in academy, where 1000 employments are engaged in scientific work, including 500 doctors.



The President of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani, honorary Ph.D. from Tbilisi State University at the meeting of the university's scientific board (April 1995).



King Vakhtang VI Bagrationi (1675-1737) - Editor of "The Man in the Panther's Skin" by Shota Rustaveli (XII c.), translator of "Kalila va Dimna" (Vazir Kashi's reduction), Ulugh Beg's astronomical tables, Astronomical Treatise by Nasir ad-Din Tusi and author of "The Book on the Preparation of solution and chemical transformations."



Vakhushti Bagrationi (1696-1757) son of the King Vakhtang VI, a great scholar, geographer, historian, cartographer.

Leading Staff of the Faculty of Oriental Studies (60-70th)



From right to left: Prof. V. Gobashvili, corresp. member of Academy (history); Prof. S. Djikia member of academy (Turkologie); Prof. G. Tsereteli member of Academy (semitologie); Prof. I. Shilakadze (Armenistic); prof. G. Puturidze (History); Prof. D. Kofidze corresp. member of Academy (Iranian Philology).

The university has 21 faculties, two research institutes (Institute of Applied Mathematics and Institute of High Energy)

Acad. I. Javakhishvili (1876-1940) - eminent historian, researcher of the history of Georgia, Armenia and Near East, one of the founders of Iranistic in Georgia, founder of University (1918).

Acad. A. Shanidze (1887-1987) - one of the founders of university, eminent linguist, one of the founders of Kartvelologie, first lecture of Armenian and Arabic languages in university

Acad. G. Akhvlediani (1887-1973) - eminent linguist-phonetist, specialist of Sanskrit and Ossetic languages, one of the founders of Georgian Iranistic.

The student body of the Tbilisi University is 25000. The personnel totals about 5,500, including 2,300 professors and lecturers.



Tbilisi State University



In 3rd-4th c near Phasis (modern Poti) there was a school of philosophy and rhetoric-Colchian Academy.

